MGW

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Earth Day Issue

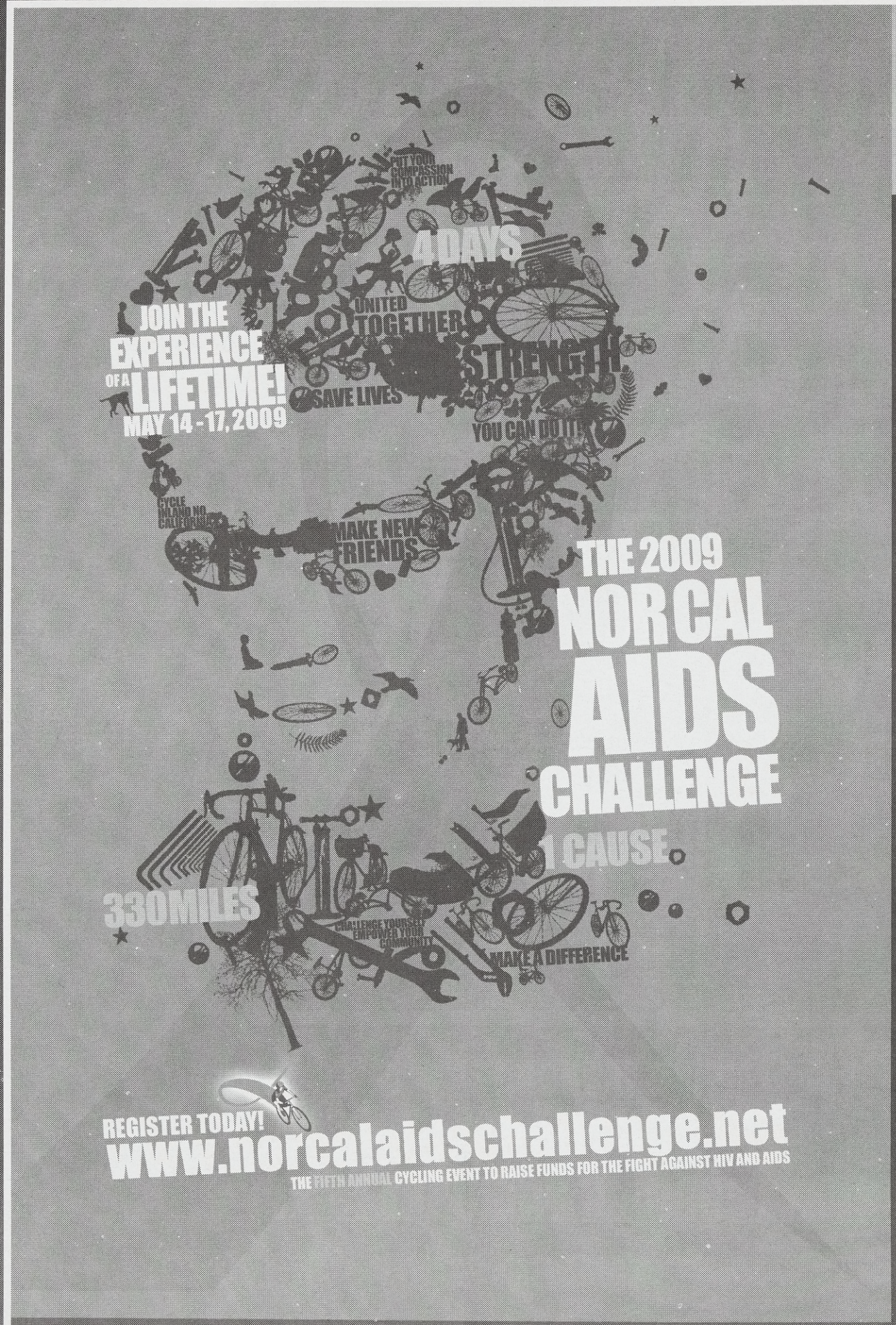
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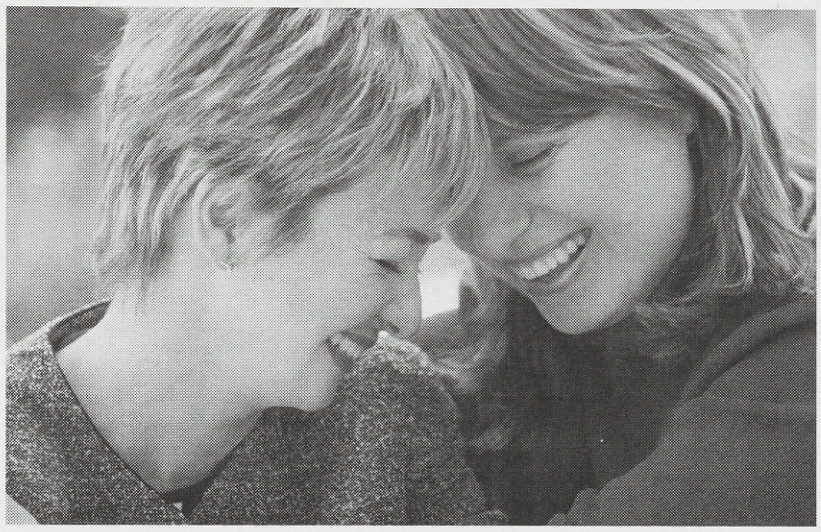
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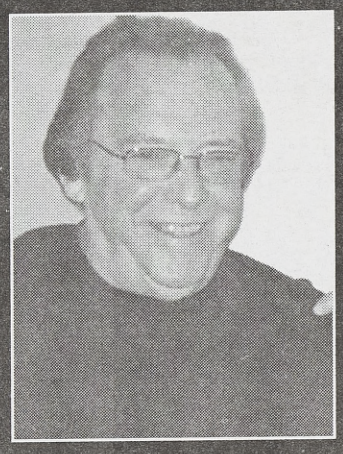


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AS THE VISITORS GATHERED, THEIR TEARS FLOWED IN MEMORY OF JACK, A FRIENDLY MAN THAT MOST EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY KNEW. JACK STILL HOLDS TOP SCORE ON MOST OF THE VIDEO GAMES AT DEPOT, WHERE A GROWING MEMORIAL TO JACK IS VISITED BY FRIENDS.





JACK, WHEN I FIRST STARTED WORKING AT ~~STARBUCKS~~ THE DEPOT & BADLANDS, YOU WERE THE REGULAR CUSTOMER AND I WAS THE NEW GUY. THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ME WITH YOUR GREAT SMILE. I LOVED PLAYING BINGO WITH YOU AND ~~WILL~~ I WILL MISS YOU.

LOVE,

BRADLEY

I've had the priveledge of being Jack's friend for a long time and he always found a way to make me feel like I was still an empress. He was truly the most gracious, sincere and respectable person I've ever met. Bingo will never be the same without him. Rose Empress of Misfits

Jack -

You will always be remembered for your kindness - and also your regular patronage of the Depot - Thank you my friend. Love TJ

JACK

My friend I Love you I Love you!!! Will Miss you... Thank you for Being The Man You Are... I am GRATEFUL to know you!

Miss you friend ~~THANKS~~ HUGS for Being You

Love

Deanea Yo Yo

...ove you, Love you
...ur always in my
...houghts.

...ce was a beautiful soul. He touched... the hearts of everyone he met. I'll ...ss spending time with him. When I came ...to the Depot, I always had to say ...h. to Jack First. I'll miss his hugs ...AND luv ya, laughs, Luv ya's. I KNOW ...I meant everyone of them. SHARON ...h was a wonderful friend and was always ...to me. We will miss you! Erin

...ACK I HOPE NO DOG BARKIN' YER ...AY ANYMORE. YOU WERE MY BESTFRIEND ...ND I LIVE MY LIFE FOR YOU NOW ...ALWAYS I WILL BE YOUR #1 ...OY.

...ack, The Grande Dame of ...ingo, had his own ~~asso~~ciated ...motocal..." President Obama and ...he Queen of England could be at the ...ame, but you always went first ...to Jack and greeted him with a hug and a kiss and a shinner of that devish/naughty grin.

TO JACK: WILL MISS YOU GREATLY - YOU ALWAYS KNEW THE RIGHT THING TO DO - AND YOUR ADVISE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN - WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY MY FRIEND. JOHN SABOL

JACK WAS THE BEST PERSON TO ANYONE THAT HAD PRIVILEDGE TO MEET HIM. I KNEW HE MADE MY HEART SMILE EACH TIME I SAW HIM. LOVE YA LOADS JACK. SUSAN CALDWELL

JACK WAS MY BINGO BUDDY. ALWAYS SAVED A SEAT FOR ME, HE WOULD CUT MY HAIR AND I WOULD FIX HIS CAR. FOR HIM, HE WAS VERY FUNNY AND LOVABLE, (AND SHARED TOO MUCH OF HIS BEER WITH ME!) U NANCY BIGGS

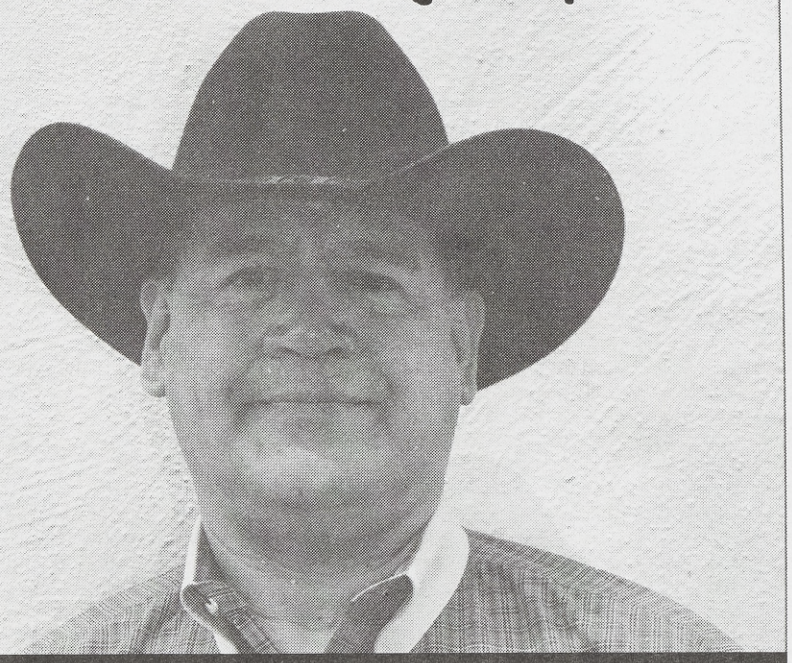
I'm Gonna Miss You Jack
You WERE / ARE A Ray
Of Light In A Grey
World. No Matter When
Where I Saw You
With out Fail A Smile
On your Face And Always
A Kind Word To Say.
I Know It's Not Right
To Say But I Will Miss
You Telling Me How
Handsome . . .
Your Memory Will Not
Be Forgotten
Steven Willey

To Jack, I'll love you for being there for me. Through the sad Time and happy time. You will always be in my heart and when I get my A.A. I will be thankful you believe in me.

I love you Jack
love Jennifer Scott

Jack was a great guy with a smile always on his face and a kind word for whoever he met. He enjoyed one of the mornings I would play @ Depot, so I burnished it to a tee for him, and surprisingly he saw me four months afterwards. He was so excited to have that song, and thanked me more times than I can count. He took the time not only to get to know me, but to find out what I was into, hobbies, etc. Jacks was always actually listening, not just waiting to talk. I'll miss him & treasure our time together.

60th Birthday Party for Activist George Raya



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letters to the editor

FROM THE CENTER

The theme of this year's Lambda Awards, which took place March 23rd at the Double Tree Hotel, was "Dreams". With over 200 guests "Dreams" were not only shared but realized. Through the talented effort of auctioneer, David Sobon, nearly $25,000 was raised to further the development of the Center's Queer Youth and Mental Health Programs. The support by the community of the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, its programs and services was a dream to behold – shared and realized. This outpouring of support indicates that the community is ready and willing to rise to the challenge to ensure a strong, vibrant Center and LGBT community in Sacramento.

Most of all, a dream of an ideal Center, right here in Sacramento, here not only for people seeking help, but also for fun, entertainment, educational programs and community gatherings was shared. A Center that includes a theater, a library, a café, a cyber center, office space for small non-profits, a meeting room large enough to host large town halls and more - a Center that allows us to come together, to work collaboratively, to maximize our resources and our effectiveness. Through continued collaboration with Sacramento Rainbow Chamber, Stonewall Democrats, PFLAG, the faith community, CAPITAL, the City of Sacramento, Equality California, Marriage Equality USA, EAN, and the Sacramento Police Dept, along with businesses like Wells Fargo, HP, Outword, MGW, FACES, VRP, SMUD and more, this dream is possible.

It is my belief, in these frightening times, the dream of working together in this way is not just an idealistic vision. In order for our organizations and our community institutions to survive and thrive, collaborations and even mergers will be necessary. A dream of mine is that the Sacramento LGBT community will be one of the first to move to action and become a model for communities throughout our state and nation.

To those who attended this year's Lambda Awards, I personally want to thank you for your support, commitment, and overwhelming endorsement of the Center, its role and mission. Together we have taken the first step necessary to ensure that our dreams for our community become reality.

LESTER NEBLETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SACRAMENTO GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

TRANSSEXUAL ALLEGES POLICE DISCRIMINATION

My name is MC Parks. I was arrested on 03/15/09 for DUI. I noticed when I left the bar I worked at, FACES, a CHP pulled out at the same time and started to follow me. As I was driving there were two cars in front of me and one that pulled in-between me and the CHP officer. When I got ready to turn to go toward the freeway he pulled me over.

When he came up to my car he asked me why I was speeding. I explained to him that I was going with the flow of traffic. He then asked me for me ID and registration. After giving it to him he then asked me to follow his finger. After about a minute he then asked me to get out of me car. As I was doing so I could see him laughing. He asked me to come over to his car and once again follow his finger. He then stopped moving his finger and asked the other officer that was not looking at me if he noticed my eye was jumping. The other officer took a moment then stated, "yes". The officer then asked me if I have had anything to drink that night. I told him that I had a Vodka Redbull at 8:30 p.m. and finished around 9:15 p.m. He asked me if I had taken anything. I told him that I had taken two vicodin due to I get really bad migraines. I told him I took one around 11:30 p.m. and another just after 2 p.m.

He then asked me to place my hands to my side and stand on one foot and count for him. I did as he asked and when he asked me to stop he asked if I would take a Breathalyzer test. I told him "yes I would". After taking the test he asked me if anyone could have put anything in my drink. I stated to him that I was not sure do to I work at the bar and my drink sits on the counter. He then placed me under arrest for DUI. I asked him what I had blown [on the Breathalyzer] and he would not give me an answer. I asked two more times and still got no answer. I then asked him if I could call my roommate to come and get my car and he stated no that it was to be towed.

I was arrested around 2:30 a.m. They then took me to the station and the officer thanked me for being cooperative with them. When we got into the station I was taken into another room and asked again to take a Breathalyzer test. I did take it and when the result came out the officer stated that it came down substation (sic) and I was at a .2. I was then told that the money in my purse and items would be counted out in front of me and I was asked to remove my jewelry items and belt. I did remove all items and was then placed on a bench to be patted down. The items in my purse were never counted in front of me at any time.

The arresting officer asked me if I wanted to be placed in a cell by myself due to being a transsexual and I stated, "yes". As I was being patted down the officer that was doing it asked me in a very rude voice if my hair was a weave. I stated to him that it was not asked he then asked again in a rude tone. I repeated that it was not and then he stated again in a rude tone that if it was a weave that they would have to take it out. I stated again that it was not.

As I was being walked to another room a female officer in a very loud, rude voice told me that I needed to zip up my told (sic) and I stated to her that she needed to be nicer. When I was taken into the other room to have the nurse look at me the main officer told me that the female officer was not being rude. I explained to him that she was and there are ways of asking someone to do something and the way she did it was rude. After the nurse got done, I was photo and placed in my room.

After being in my cell for about an hour an officer came to my room and opened the door. He then said he wanted to ask some questions and hopefully I would not find them "rude". He asked me if I was a man and I stated "yes" I was. He then asked me if my "tits" were real and I stated. "yes". Then he asked me if I still had a [penis]. I then asked him if these were questions he should be asking when they were already told what I was. He then closed my cell and went over to the other officers and began to tell them what he had asked me and they all began to laugh.

I was placed in my cell just a little after 3 a.m. When the officers were making rounds to check on the inmates, they would skip over mine and as they walked by my cell they would laugh. As time passed I tapped on the cell window to see when I would be released and a black officer came to my window and asked me what I wanted. I asked him when I would be released and he stated in about an hour but if I continued on I would be there longer. As he was leaving my cell I could see him say the word "faggot".

After that I was processed to leave just after 11 am. I was moved to a far cell after they did the finger-printing on me. When I was placed in that cell I could see the officers checking on inmates but they never came to my cell. When I finally got an officer to come over to me I asked if I could have a blanket due to I was cold and I was not wearing a lot. I was told that I could not have one. I could see the other inmates in another cell did have blankets so I did not understand why I was not allowed to have one.

I was then moved again to my final cell to wait for the final paperwork to be released. The officer that placed me in that cell came to my cell three times and kept asking me why I was still there. I could see people being released that had arrived at the same time I did and people that arrived after me were being released. I was finally released from jail at 5:30 p.m. — 14 1/2 hours from the time of my arrest.

The way that I was treated when I was in jail, I feel as though I was sexually discriminated against. Sinse my release I have now asked my doctor for anti-depressants due to I do not feel safe any longer from the officers that are here to protect me. I am scared now to go out of my house or to drive due to I feel that if I ever need help from an officer that I will not receive that help due to me being a transsexual.

I have goe though a lot in my life with the common person on the street and have learned to deal with the things that they call me or do to me — but I never in my life thought that somebody here to honor the law and protect me would treat me the same way as a person on the street. What I went through in jail makes me almost not want to continue [living openly as] a transsexual but I know if I do stop, I would let rude people win and I will not allow that to happen.

I am writing this because I feel that somebody has to take a stand so that nobody has to go through what I have gone through.

MC PARKS
AKA TIANNA CHANNEL BORGES
COMMUNITY MEMBER

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Respond to Medical Pot Raids with Legalization



ANTHONY GREGORY IS A WRITER AND MUSICIAN LIVING IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA. HE EARNED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN HISTORY AT U.C. BERKELEY, WHERE HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE CAL LIBERTARIANS. HE IS A RESEARCH ANALYST AT THE INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE (INDEPENDENT.ORG), A POLICY ADVISOR FOR THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM FOUNDATION (FFF.ORG), AND A COLUMNIST FOR LEWROCKWELL.COM. HIS OWN WEBSITE IS ANTHONYGREGORY.COM.

Activists are outraged over President Obama's raid of Emmalyn's California Cannabis Clinic in San Francisco, but they should not be surprised.

Obama's attorney general, Eric Holder, had promised to end federal medical marijuana raids as conducted by the Clinton and Bush administrations, leaving alone dispensaries operating legally under state law. Obama broke the spirit of the promise, but not the letter. The excuse for this last raid was state law violations — supposedly, sales taxes were being evaded. Now the feds will probably prosecute under federal law.

The state government was not agitating for a crackdown. Sacramento was not complaining about sales tax evasion. San Francisco had given a permit to this dispensary.

"It is disturbing that, despite the DEA's vague claims about violations of state and federal laws," Aaron Smith from the Marijuana Policy Project noted about the Drug Enforcement Agency, "they apparently made no effort to contact the local authorities who monitor and license medical marijuana providers."

Furthermore, sales tax violations are rarely handled this way. The California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws points out, "The normal process in such cases is for the Board of Equalization to audit the business in question, not for federal agents to enter like storm troopers and steal all of the business's inventory."

This episode should remind liberal pot activists of the potentially despotic power involved in tax collection. The power to tax is the power to destroy. Raids like this are unusual but not unheard of in mere tax cases. Presumably, if California's marijuana industry were governed only by libertarian law — no violence, no theft, and no fraud — there would be far fewer excuses for the feds to step in.

Short of exempting medical marijuana from sales tax altogether, how can future outrages be prevented? California should go on the offensive. It should legalize marijuana, leave its regulation to the market, and, for now, treat it like any other retail good in terms of tax law.

The state could do so by treating marijuana as a legal medicine, thereby protecting users and distributors from federal sanction, assuming Obama keeps his promise to the letter. California could make medical marijuana completely legal — like aspirin or cough syrup — and allow retailers of all types to sell it without license or prescription.

Marijuana could be sold in grocery stores and pharmacies as an over-the-counter treatment. It could be made available everywhere. This measure would make it much harder for the feds to raid facilities as though they were underground, barely legal operations. It would expose the contradictions in the Drug War.

The Drug War is a total disaster. It has failed to significantly reduce drug abuse while violating personal liberty, serving as an excuse to shred the Bill of Rights, and being the major cause of gang violence, whether in our inner cities or on the border with Mexico.

If America ended drug prohibition, the Mexican border violence that has killed thousands over the past couple of years would end completely. Unfortunately, Obama is moving in the wrong direction, sending more troops to the border. Such state violence has forced the drug market underground, and every successful breakup of a dominant cartel only opens up a vacuum inevitably filled by other smaller groups violently competing over turf. The more the government cracks down, the worse it will get.

On medical marijuana, Obama was supposed to signify a shift in policy. His last DEA raid should put that myth to bed. By legalizing medical marijuana in 1996, California forced the issue over whether federal drug laws should supersede local standards. In terms of public opinion and political pressure, much has been won. It's time to keep pushing.

In Gonzales v. Raich (2005), the Supreme Court's five liberals all voted for federal supremacy over California's medical marijuana laws, so more court cases might not be the answer. California should instead continue to liberalize its drug laws. Doing so will, at least, complicate Obama's policy of federal raids and further undermine faith in the national government setting drug policy.

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Marriage Progress In Two States

There was good news, on same sex marriage, out of two states today. In Iowa, the state Supreme Court ruled that Iowa must allow same sex couples to Marry. In Vermont the state General Assembly approved a bill to allow same sex marriage in that state.

In Iowa, authorities will have to allow same sex couples to marry beginning April 24. On that date, Iowa will become the third state currently allowing same sex couples to marry. The others are Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The Decision in Iowa is remarkable in that it is the first state in the generally conservative mid-west to allow same sex marriage. It Is also remarkable in that the Supreme Court Decision in favor of same sex marriage was unanimous. Same sex marriage also became legal in both Massachusetts and Connecticut as the result of decisions by their Supreme Courts. But, in each of those cases the Courts were divided. In each of those states a bare majority of the justices ruled in favor of same sex marriage.

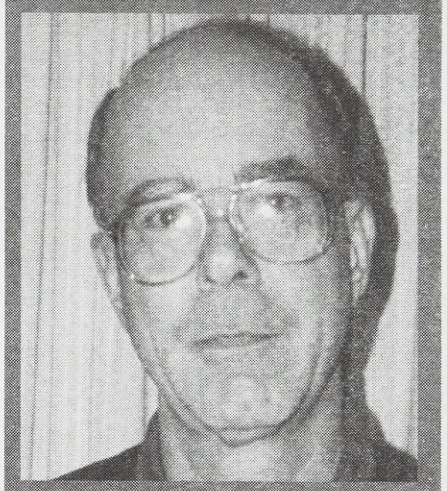
Supreme Court Justice Mark Cady, who wrote the unanimous decision, said, Iowa's gay marriage ban "is unconstitutional, because the county has been unable to identify a constitutionally adequate justification for excluding plaintiffs from the institution of civil marriage," Cady dismissed the concept of allowing civil unions, as distinct from marriage, as an only option for gay couples. He said, "A new distinction based on sexual orientation would be equally suspect and difficult to square with the fundamental principles of equal protection embodied in our constitution,"

The ruling also addressed what it called the "religious undercurrent propelling the same-sex marriage debate," and said judges must remain outside the fray. It said, "Our constitution does not permit any branch of government to resolve these types of religious debates and entrusts to courts the task of ensuring that government avoids them," And so the court's ruling explicitly stated that the decision does not affect "the freedom of a religious organization to define marriage it solemnizes as unions between a man and a woman."

So, according to the decision, the sate must issue marriage licenses to same sex couples, but churches and other religious bodies do not have to solemnize them.

In Vermont, the Vermont State General Assembly yesterday approved a bill (S. 115) to allow same sex couples to marry in that state. The bill had originated in the State Senate and had been approved in that house before being sent to the General Assembly. A staff member in the bill author's office said that the bill now goes to a two house conference committee because the bill was amended slightly by the Assembly after having been approved by the Senate. She says she expects the differences to be resolved quickly and the bill should be on the Governor's desk by Monday, April 6.

The Governor is expected to veto it that day. It is probable that the Senate will vote to override the Governor's veto the next day. It approved the bill previously on a vote of 26 to 4. However, the General Assembly approved the bill on a vote of 95 to 52. One hundred votes are needed in the Assembly to override a veto. So override in that house is uncertain at best. We should know the outcome by late this coming week.



BY BOYCE HINMAN
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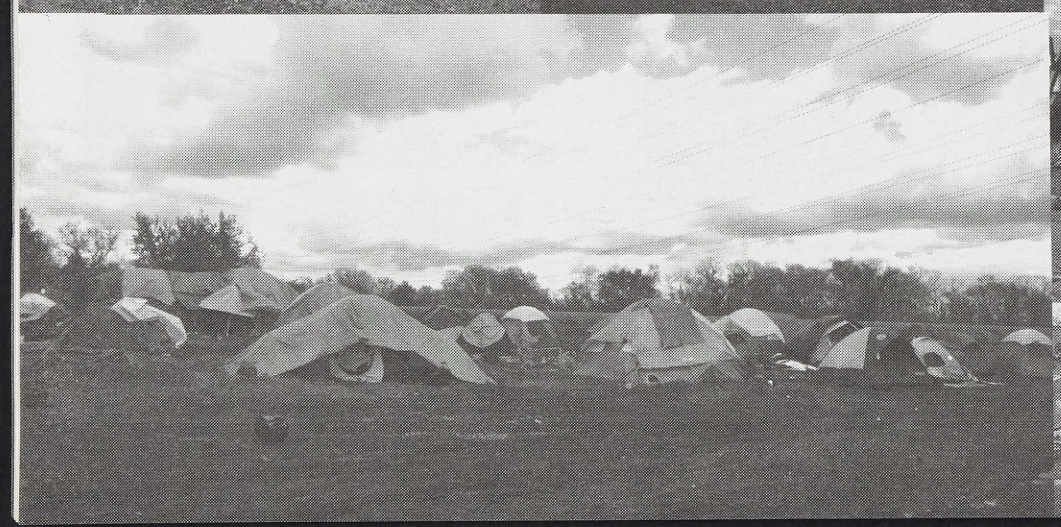


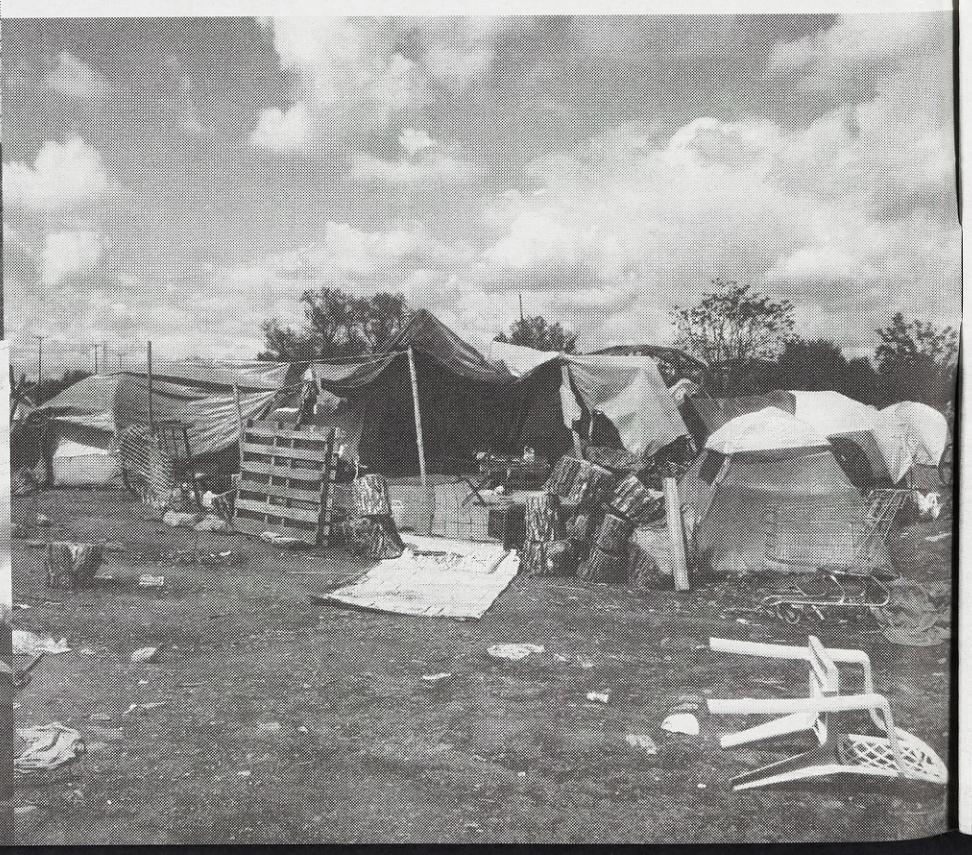












Tent City Sacramento

STORY & PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

"Lil' Mary" Buck is grateful today. Cycles 4 Hope, an organization that collects donated used bicycles and repairs them to give away to the homeless, gifted her with mobility. Buck, 42, native to the greater Sacramento area has lived in the now infamous Tent City for more than a year.

In midtown Sacramento, a short walk over the embankment from 20th St., takes you to Buck's community of hundreds if not thousands of people like her, living in tents scattered along the river and surrounding fields. It is impossible to see the extent of the community from any one point, sprawling in little tent neighborhoods tucked along the rocks, trees and industrial rubble near the river.

It was not always like this for Buck. She worked as a carnival ride operator making ends meet; living close to the edge but taking pride in what she did. "Parents always complimented me. I gave their kids extra rides whenever it was slow; it was about making people happy." Buck says. "I like working with kids, I have grandchildren of my own now. I wish I could be a better grandmother." After only being able to find nine months of work one year, and less the next, Buck decided she could no longer be a burden on her children, she had too much pride for that. She moved to the streets and later to Tent City.

Life for Buck is hard, but she sees herself getting out of Tent City one day. She is trying to save enough money to fix her damaged front teeth. She believes this will help her get a job. "I've been looking and trying, but nobody wants to hire me. I will get through this somehow. I always pictured myself at this point in my life having the little house, car — you know, the regular things."

As the residents of Tent City are being pressured to leave or face legal repercussions by the City of Sacramento, Buck packs up her tent and handful of possessions. As she does, a sudden and brief downpour soaks the few blankets she uses to keep herself warm from the chilly Sacramento nights.

"SMUD owns this property and they want us off. They have some place for people to go, they say, but I'm going to leave room for someone who needs it more, she says thoughtfully looking around at the expanse of tents. "I'm going under the 12th St. Bridge."

There are other residents of Tent City who only a short time ago had homes, jobs, drank coffee at Starbucks and ate leisurely lunches at downtown restaurants. But the recession has left them huddling together in this make-shift city, not knowing where their next meal is coming from or whether their nightmare will ever end. One must wonder how many paychecks away any of us are from being on the streets.

As Buck spreads her blankets out to dry and examines her new bicycle, she peers down the train tracks a few yards away. "Look at that, it's amazing," she exclaims. What seemed to be and endless line of military tanks on flatbed train cars rolls by as an eerie reminder of the ongoing war, and its costs.

21st Century M-1 Abrams tanks cost roughly $1.3 million each — enough for an average person to live comfortably for 40 years.

For more information on donating your used or wanted bicycles to those in need, visit www.cycles4hope.org

CGNIE'S LATINA PAGEANT CONTINUES OVER 3 WEEKS AS HOPEFULS TRY TO WIN OVER JUDGES WITH CREATIVE COSTUMES, TALENT, AND CHARM. THIS YEAR'S CONTEST HAS PROVEN TO BE ONE OF THE BEST. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN VISIT GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG FOR CONTEST RESULTS, AND VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM FOR MORE PHOTOS.

LEFT: LAVENDER LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS DURING A RECENT FUNDRAISER. RIGHT: FACES FOLKS HELP OUT AT THE CAN DRIVE. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. MORE PHOTOS AT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



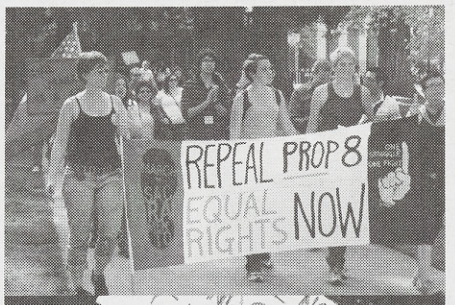








RENDEZVOUS WITH COOL BEANS GAVE AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE AT HEADHUNTERS. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. FOR MORE PHOTOS VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



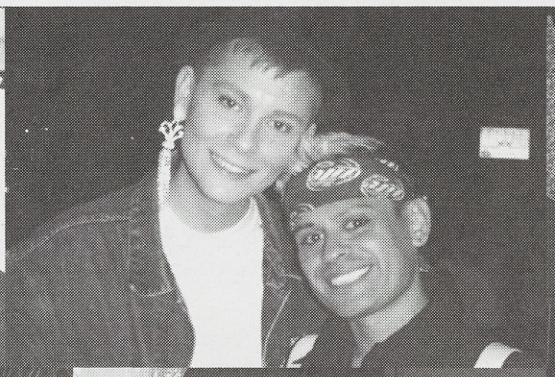


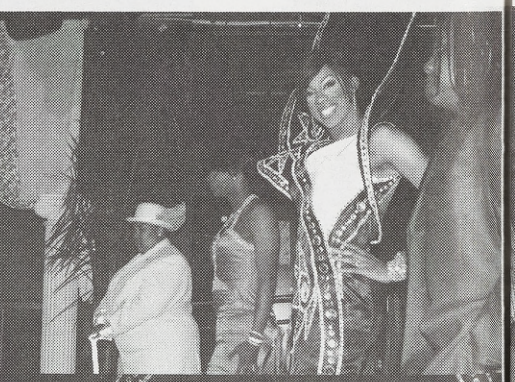


AS PROTESTERS IN OPPOSITION TO PROP. 8 MARCHED FROM SAN FRANCISCO TOWARD SACRAMENTO, PEOPLE NOTICED. ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WAS KATHY GRIFFIN. "WHEN I SAW MY GAY FRIENDS HAD A PROTEST, I WANTED TO DO WHAT I COULD SO SUPPORT THEM." GRIFFIN SAID. SHE BROUGHT HER CAMERA CREW FROM "THE D LIST" AND A HANDMADE SIGN. DESPITE THE ATTEMPTS OF OTHERS TO GET FUNNY COMMENTS OUT OF HER ON CAMERA, HER UNDERLYING MESSAGE WAS BLATANTLY SERIOUS: GRIFFIN SUPPORTS US, AND SHE IS WILLING TO TAKE TO THE STREETS FOR US. THANK YOU TO GRIFFIN AND EVERY ALLY WILLING TO STAND UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY. THANK YOU KATHY, YOU ROCK! PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN









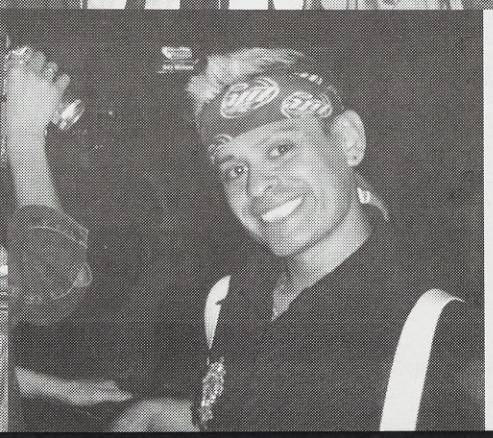




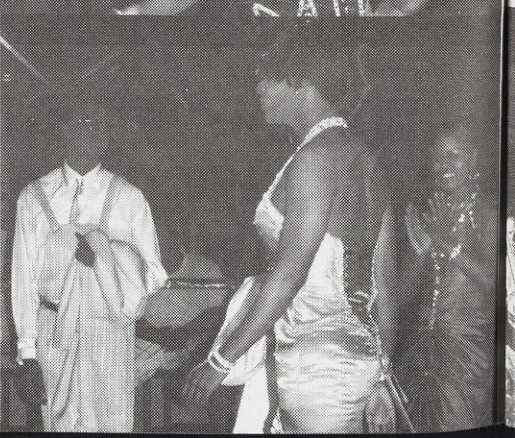








MR. & MS. GAY SACRAMENTO PAGEANT, PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. FOR MORE PHOTOS VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM







LEFT: CGNIE KICKED OFF THE SEASON OF CAMPAIGNING AS NEW CANDIDATES FOR EMPEROR AND EMPRESS DECLARED THEMSELVES AT THE BIG HAIR BALL. THIS YEAR SHOULD PROVE TO BE ENTERTAINING AS THE COMPETITION MOVES FORWARD WITH SO MANY QUALIFIED CONTESTANTS.

RIGHT: CAUGHT! – VANITY SEARCHING, TWO HOT GUYS AT THE DEPOT WERE CAUGHT SEARCHING FOR THEIR PICTURES IN MGW. HERE YA GO BOYS. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

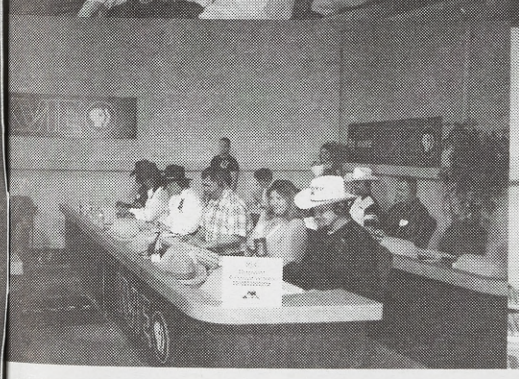


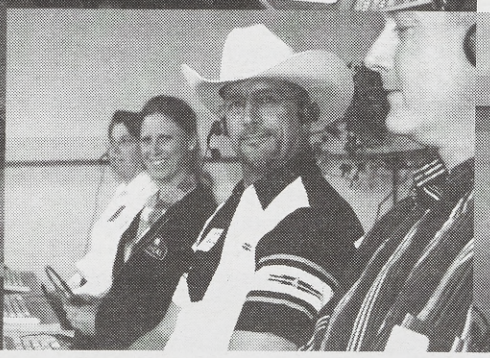


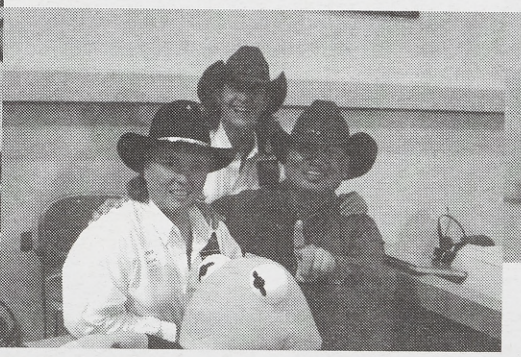


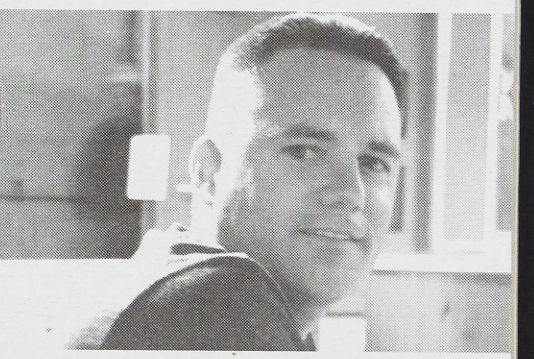


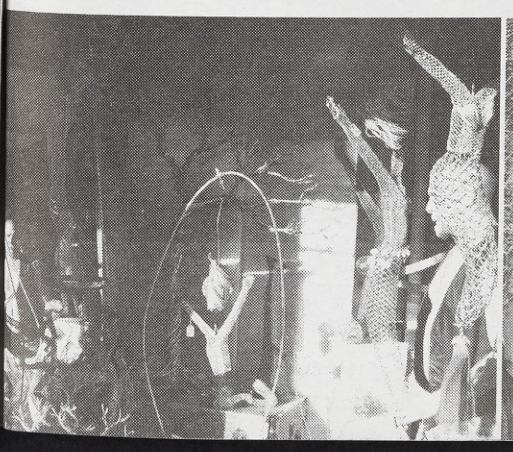
THE SCCGRA REPRESENTED THE LGBT COMMUNITY IN APRIL BY ANSWERING PHONES DURING A PLEDGE DRIVE FOR SACRAMENTO'S PUBLIC TELEVISION STATION. KVIE VIEWERS WERE INVITED TO CALL IN AND PLEDGE, WITH THE NAME CAPITAL CROSSROADS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION PROUDLY ABOVE THE 800 NUMBER. OVER $10,000 WAS COLLECTED LATE SUNDAY EVENING, MORE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER VOLUNTEER GROUPS ALL DAY. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. MORE PHOTOS AVAILABLE AT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



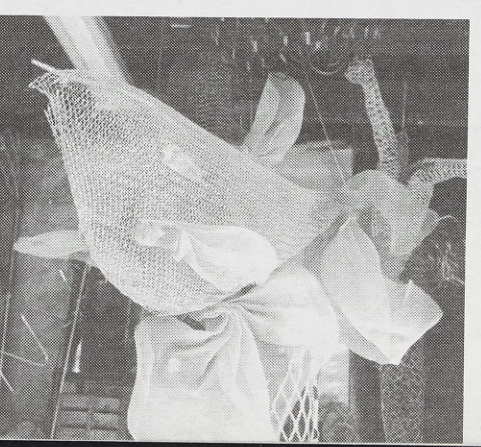












WAYNE KERNS, THE ARTIST KNOWN FOR HIS ABILITY TO TURN SCRAPS INTO TREASURES WILL REMAIN NEXT TO THE BOLT, AT LEAST THROUGH THE SUMMER. HEALTH CONSERNS MAY FORCE KERNS TO FIND A NEW SPACE BEFORE NEXT WINTER. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN



The Greens Hotel

STORY BY DANNAH O'DONNELL

PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

Garlic serves many purposes- the banishment of vampires, holistic medicine, and breath-ruiner- but for Cecilio Ascuncion, it was a career-changer. "I was working at the Hotel Intercontinental in Manila, Philippines as Garde Manger, and I'd sliced tub after tub of garlic. It suddenly hit me that the kitchen wasn't the place for me- I'm too much of a Chatty Cathy for the kitchen," he explains. It set him on the path (though very roundabout) to Sacramento, and The Greens Hotel.

Raised in a non-traditional Filipino family with whom Cecilio is very close, he is devoted to his mother. He is also thankful that she lives close enough to drop by delicious, homemade Filipino snacks, but not too often. His stepfather, a pastor, has also been a major influence in his life. "When I asked him if it bothered him that I was gay," Cecilio says, "he said, 'You are my son first, and a gay man second.' It really meant a lot to me."

Born in the Philippines, he first came to the United States in the late '90s for culinary school at the prestigious California Culinary Academy. Cecilio returned to the Philippines where he did a few food-styling commercials and was art director for a now-defunct food magazine. He returned to the US several years later to attend college in New York, where he graduated near the top of his class with a BA in Hospitality.

Cecilio's beginnings in hospitality were quite humble- he was a phone operator for the Crown Plaza Hotel. His cheerful demeanor and ineffable work ethic landed him progressively better jobs in high end hotels across the Northeast. Eventually, he found himself on the west coast, in San Francisco.

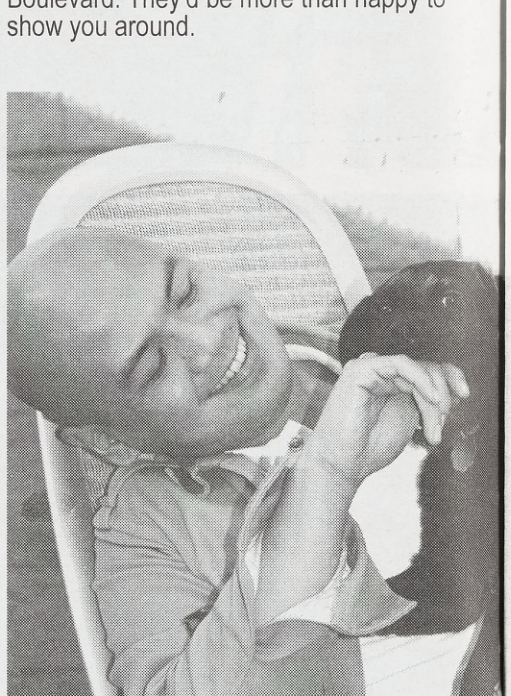
Part of Cecilio's decision to come to Sacramento was for a relationship. The opportunity to start anew in Sacramento presented itself via The Greens Hotel, and he decided it would be a refreshing change from San Francisco. While he does occasionally miss the excitement of the big city, he really enjoys the more laid back work environment he has here in Sacramento. While the relationship didn't end up working out, he doesn't regret his decision to relocate.

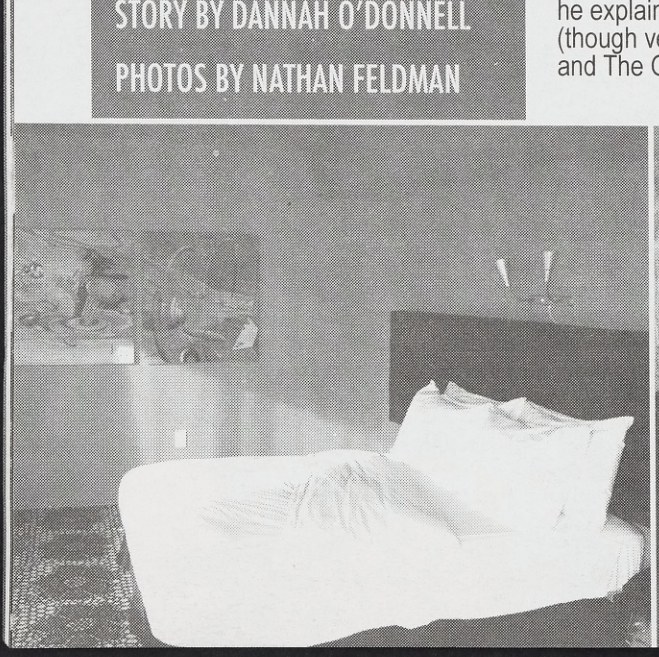
Cecilio is tremendously dedicated to his work at the hotel. As General Manager, he's become the face of the hotel, and works very closely with its owner, Dan Friedlander to ensure that the hotel's philosophy- that luxury and affordability need not be mutually exclusive, and should come without pretense- comes through in the everyday operation of the hotel.

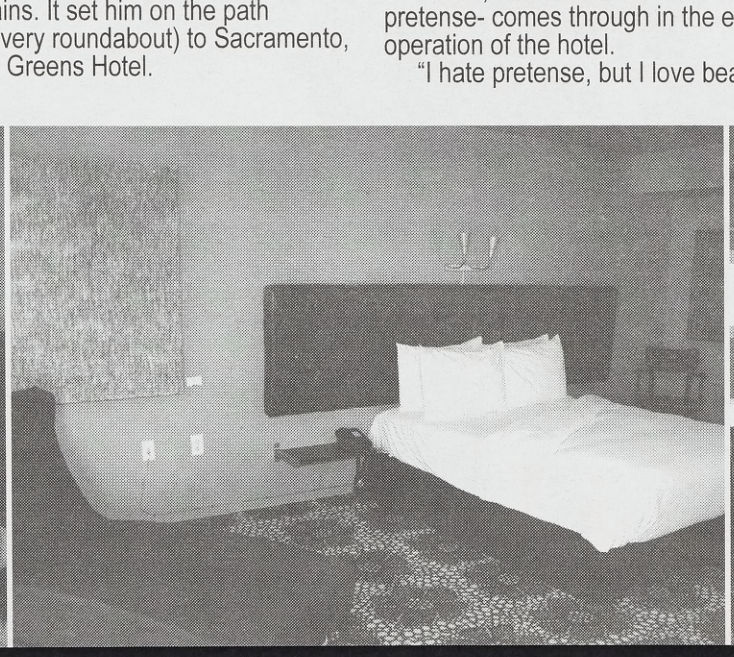
"I hate pretense, but I love beautiful things- which is really what the hotel is all about. Our aim is to make luxury accessible to people who might not otherwise experience it, and without the pretense that is usually associated with it."

One of Cecilio's favorite things about running a business on Del Paso Boulevard is how out of place, in a good way, the hotel seems. "I'm really proud to be part of the resurgence of Del Paso Heights. You'd expect to find a place like The Greens Downtown, or Midtown, but out here, its really unexpected in a wonderful way- it's really nice to have a place that has gay/lesbian-friendly interests in mind somewhere other than the Lavender District."

Cecilio has a new man in his life. Several weeks ago, an adorable stray puppy wandered on the hotel grounds. Cecilio adopted him, named him Stedman, and he's become somewhat of a fixture at the hotel. You can stop by The Greens Hotel any time to meet both Stedman and Cecilio at 1700 Del Paso Boulevard. They'd be more than happy to show you around.









Capital Crossroads Compete In Florida

BY WES WILKINSON

SACRAMENTO'S CAPITAL CROSSROADS COWBOYS' TRAVEL TO FLORIDA, CRUISE THE CARIBBEAN AND COMPETE IN THE SUNSHINE STAMPEDE RODEO

Sacramento's Rodeo Competition Team traveled to Fort Lauderdale to attend the first annual Country Music Caribbean Cruise and to represent Sacramento at the 4th Annual Sunshine Stampede Rodeo April 3-5, 2009. Prior to the rodeo the six-night cruise visited Belize, Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico. Four local rodeo cowboys: David Tulleys, Mark Burniston (Chopper), Jeff Barr and Wes Wilkinson (Wild Wild Wes), explored the Belize jungle on ziplines and repelled into caves. They wrapped up their 10-day trip to Florida by earning eight ribbons and 1 buckle in the rodeo arena. Chopper covered his ride on his Bronc both days and came home with the buckle for the Men's competition. Chopper is currently ranked #1 in Bareback Bronc riding internationally on the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) circuit. During the Bull riding event on Saturday, Chopper was thrown and the animal stomped on his right shoulder and right leg. He sported a huge bruise that covered his right leg from his wrangler jeans front pocket to his knee. Chopper covered both of his steer rides on Saturday and again on Sunday and was awarded 4th place and 5th place; respectively.

Wild Wild Wes wrestled his steer in the Chute Dogging competition both days and earned 5th place on Saturday and 6th place on Sunday. During the competition on Sunday he lost his front tooth. Now, he truly looks like he is from the backwoods of Oklahoma! But the good part is that the missing tooth accessorized his wild drag outfit when he competed as "Sock Hop" Suzie with a knocked out front tooth!

Wild Wild Wes caught his calf on Sunday with a smok'n hot time of 1.07 seconds and earned first place!!! Chopper caught his calf on Saturday and came in 8th place. Wes' time was the best time of both the men's and the women's competition for the weekend! Wild Wild Wes is currently ranked #3 in Calf Roping on Foot on the IGRA circuit.

Jeff Barr and Wild Wild Wes achieved 5th place in Steer Decorating on Saturday and 6th place on Sunday. Dave Tulleys and Wild Wild Wes teamed up and got 6th in Goat Dressing on Saturday and tried to better their time on Sunday only to find that the panties fell off on their return trip and they lost valuable time when they had to run back and yank'em back up again!

Here are the Rodeo results: Calf Roping on Foot - Saturday - Chopper 8th place; Calf Roping on Foot - Sunday - Wild Wild Wes 1st place; Steer Deco - Saturday - Jeff Barr / Wild Wild Wes 5th place; Steer Deco - Sunday - Jeff Barr / Wild Wild Wes 6th place; Steer Riding - Saturday - Chopper 4th place; Steer Riding - Sunday - Chopper 5th place; Bronc Riding - Saturday - Chopper 1st place; Bronc Riding - Sunday - Chopper 1st place; Bronc Riding Men's Buckle - Chopper; Chute Dogging - Saturday - Wild Wild Wes 5th place; Chute Dogging - Sunday - Wild Wild Wes 6th place; Chute Dogging - Saturday - Sacramento John 3rd place; Chute Dogging - Sunday - Sacramento John 3rd place; Goat Dressing - Saturday - Dave Tulleys / Wild Wild Wes 6th place

We are very proud of our Sacramento Posse and overall we "kicked butt" in Florida and brought home 8 ribbons and 1 buckle for Capital Crossroads. Sacramento John placed 3rd in Chute Dogging on both Saturday and Sunday. The Sunshine Stampede attracted 101 contestants representing over sixteen IGRA associations from the United States and Canada. The Sacramento team achieved a remarkable 4th place out of the total 16 teams that participated.

If you would like to learn more about the sport of gay rodeo and join us in the rodeo arena please come out to our upcoming Rodeo School on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Central Horse Park Arena in Rio Linda, CA located at 848 Elkhorn Blvd. The scheduled rodeo events will be Calf Roping on Foot, Steer Decorating, Chute Dogging and Wild Drag Race. Come on out and join us for a day of education and fun! SCCGRA members are free and non-members $30, which includes lunch. For more information visit us at CapitalCrossroads.org

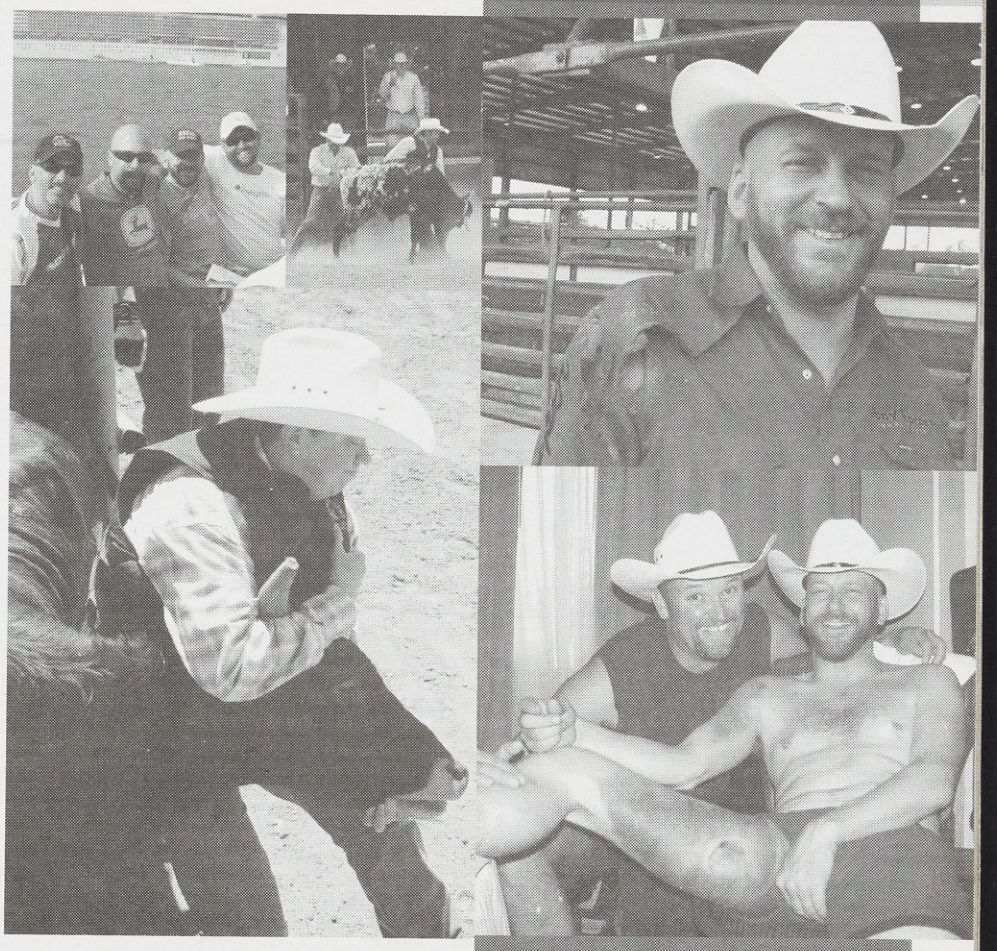
Capital Crossroads Compete In Florida

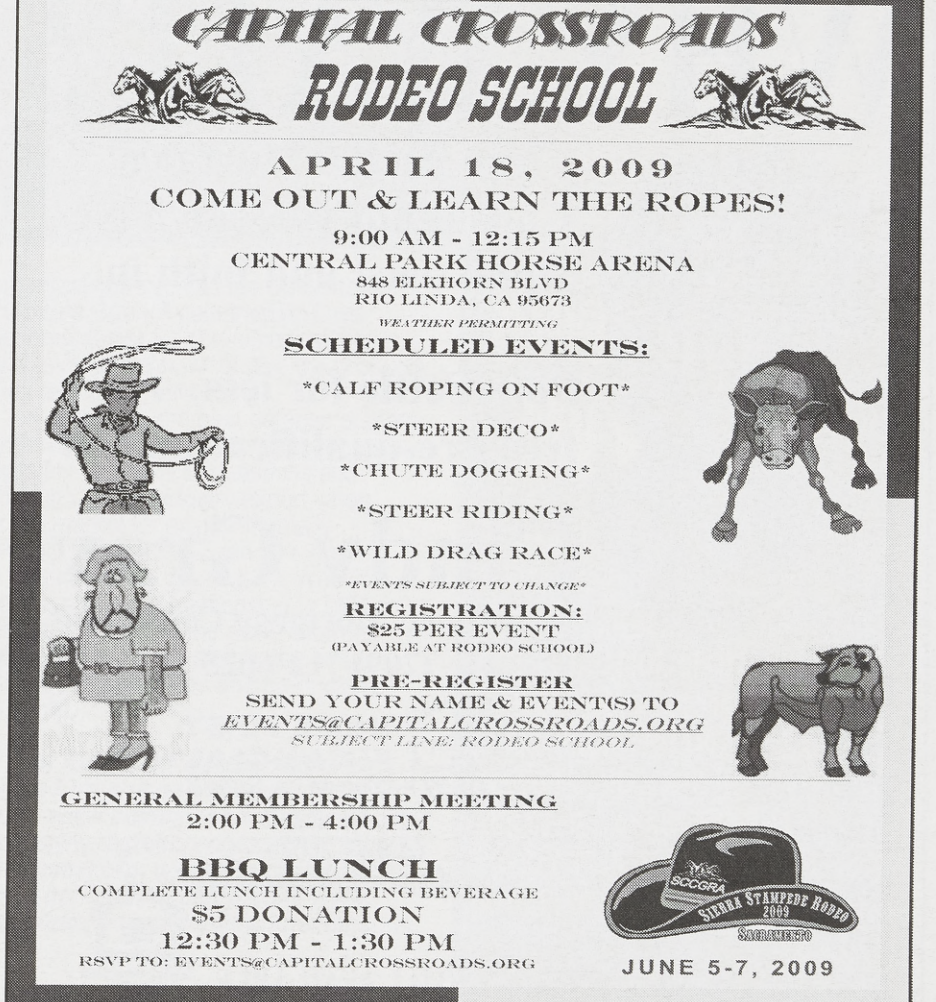
BY WES WILKINSON

The Sacramento's Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA) will be conducting a Rodeo School to educate the community on how to compete in Calf Roping on Foot, Steer Decorating, Chute Dogging and Wild Drag Race. The event will be held on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Central Park Horse Arena located at 848 Elkhorn Blvd. in Rio Linda, CA. SCCGRA is one of 28 member associations that comprise the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). SCCGRA is the local organization with over 110 members in their association and represent Sacramento in rodeo competition across the United States and Canada on the IGRA circuit. Currently, SCCGRA has five rodeo members that are ranked in the top five internationally on the IGRA circuit standings in their rodeo events. Local SCCGRA members, members of the High Sierra Rodeo Association from Reno, NV and Golden State Gay Rodeo Association - Bay Area Chapter will be in attendance for a day of education and fun.

The Rodeo School is open to anyone interested in participating or learning how to compete in rodeo events or you can just come out to the rodeo arena and join us for a day of fun! Registration is free to all SCCGRA members, $30 for non-members (which includes a SCCGRA membership, rodeo events and BBQ lunch). For those who would like to join us for the day and not participate in the rodeo events, the admission is free and $5 donation for lunch.

For more information log on to our web site at CapitalCrossroads.org.







BY JENIFFER WERTZ

The Coolest Car on The Planet

I love having a planet to live on, don't you? In fact, if you stop and think about it, it is probably the most important thing any of us have. We don't seem to stop and think about life without a planet enough in our daily decision making processes though. We're so busy and distracted, but none of us would even have a life at all without a planet. All of the things we care so much about like love, family and friends, our homes, our jobs, education, health, wealth, entertainment, our material things, our cars, our image … not possible or important without a planet. So, shouldn't caring for the planet be in the front of our minds when we make all of our decisions? No other issue really even matters if we don't have a planet, if you stop and think about it. Pick an issue, any issue. I bet having a planet to have the issue on trumps every single issue you can come up with, hands down. There's really no contest. There are many things we individually can and should do to stop Global Warming, but I'm just going to talk about one for now — our cars.

While I love the Kaiser Permanente commercial with the older guy walking to the beat of the music in his spiffy new tennis shoes, or the idea of riding a bicycle or using public transportation, many of us do not have much of a choice but to drive a car most of the time. Of course it's better not to drive at all if you can, but what kind of car you choose to drive matters too if you have to drive. I choose to drive a 2004 Honda Civic Hybrid, and I love it.

I try and talk to people about it as much as they will listen. Most of the time what they want to know is, "how many miles to the gallon does it get?" The sticker says it gets about 55 mpg, but I only get about 38 mpg (still not bad though). I could probably get better mileage if I always drove the speed limit, always kept my tires properly inflated (44 PSI), and always got my tune-ups when I am supposed to. It actually takes 0w-20 motor oil, huh? Mechanics used to always think I was crazy when I asked if they had it. It took a few years before I could find it at most garages, but they've caught on now for the most part. No, you don't have to plug it in. It's just like a regular Honda Civic, except there is a battery pack on board (under the rear seats, not noticeable at all). The car switches back and forth between gas and electric, and re-charges itself while you're driving. I really have no idea how it works beyond that, but I do know it works, and there is no noticeable difference as far as how it drives.

Many people also say something like, "they're too expensive". I think to myself, really? Yes, they do initially cost about $5,000 more, but I think two wars in the Middle East with no end in sight, that are taking thousands of lives and costing trillions of dollars is too expensive. I think being a Nation that doesn't produce enough of it's own oil and is dependent on unstable foreign countries that want to use nuclear weapons is too expensive. I think Global Warming threatening to destroy our planet is too expensive. How much would you be willing to pay to have a planet to live on, or even to be free from our dependency on unstable foreign nations? Besides, when gas was about $5 a gallon a year or so ago, I was the first one leaving the gas station, and the only one with a smile on my face. I was thinking to myself, how do you like your gas guzzling Hummer now? Do you think that the price of gas might go up to $5 a gallon or more again sometime in the future, or do you think the oil companies are going to keep the prices low for us because they care about our budgets? I also didn't have to get brakes until I had 100,000 miles, never have to get a smog certificate, pay very little for registration, got a tax credit, and have a way better re-sale value, if the only consideration is money. In the long run, the car is cheaper when you calculate all of the things there are to consider, but there are so many other reasons to support alternative fuel vehicles besides money.

The coolest thing about a hybrid that most people don't know is that it has less than 1/10th of the emissions of a regular car. This is actually the thing that I love about it the most. I am doing my part to save the planet, the most important issue of all. The more of us that buy alternative fuel vehicles, the more people will see them and want to buy them, the more manufacturers will produce them, the more the prices will go down, the less we will be oil dependent, and the cleaner our air will be. Doesn't this just make sense? We can solve so many problems; we just have to really want to more.

Oh, and there are some other little bonuses. Because I am driving a super ultra low emission vehicle (SULEV), DMV gave me a carpool lane sticker. I sure do love those times when traffic is backed up and I can drive right along by myself in the carpool lane legally, passing up everyone else sitting there in their image mobile. I can park or turn around anywhere. All the SUV's leave me lots of little spaces to park in. One time I even got out of a speeding ticket. The officer legitimately pulled me over and asked me about my car. I answered his questions and honestly told him that the true reason I drive it is because it made me feel like a good citizen. I really wasn't trying to kiss up to him or get out of a ticket, I was expecting one. I was just trying to convince him to get a hybrid, like I do with everyone. He came back with a warning form, and said he was only going to give me a warning because I was a good citizen. I think he was a good cop.

Have you ever noticed the irony in a big ole gas guzzler driving down the street getting 8 mpg with a sticker on the back that says "support our troops"? I know they mean well, they just don't realize that they are part of the problem. No unintended hypocrisy here though. I am actually intentionally supporting our troops by using less oil. What's that worth? What's a planet worth? Who's driving the coolest car? I'll drive it till the wheels fall off.

By the way, I will send anyone that is interested a copy of the Inconvenient Truth. If you haven't seen it, you really should. Just e-mail womensvoices@momguesswhat.com. The only thing I ask is that you do your part and share it with someone else in return.

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How Green is My Valley?

BY MARTHA COOPER

COOPER IS A LOCAL FULL SERVICE INTERIOR DECORATOR WHO CARRIES A FULL LINE OF FURNISHINGS AND SPECIALIZING IN ECO-FRIENDLY FOR THE HOME AND OFFICE. CONTACT HER AT 916-372-3558 OR MCOOPER@DECORANDYOU.COM

As we approach the 39th anniversary of our national Earth Day on April 22, I am heartened by the current interest in all things green. Nearly every product and service is being touted as environmentally safe, natural, eco-conscious, eco-friendly, sustainable, green or organic these days, driven in large part by demand. Recently, more than half the consumers surveyed said they were very interested in the environment and were taking action to reduce global warming and a new study shows that 82% of people are buying green in spite of the economy. State, federal and local governments are now requiring adherence to stricter standards for recycling and post consumer content in products they purchase. It's understandable why manufacturers want to be the greenest in the marketplace but one by-product of this demand is "green-washing," which refers to implying or making claims that a product or service is more ecologically friendly than it really is.

As a decorator, I am keenly aware of the rush to green and confusion over the issues represented and the range of terms used to describe ecologically responsible products and practices. I am proud of my industry for addressing environmental concerns and the current buzz of green building and furnishing products is exciting and enticing to consumers. Sorting through the marketplace to find the right products can be daunting, however.

Using low or no VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints is an easy way to start being green and is available virtually everywhere paint is sold. Some manufacturers have gone further and have a consistent track record of recycling, such as Kelly-Moore Paint Company. They have been recycling post-consumer latex paint for more than 15 years. Through their E-Coat Division. The paints are also substantially lower in price than non recycled paints although the color selection is limited.

Flooring has certainly come a long way and there are many choices for carpet with high post-consumer recycled content and recycling has become a big part of the industry. Wood, cork, bamboo and other hard surface flooring materials can also be environmentally friendly.

Solar Universe is just one of the local companies providing solar products to convert residences to sustainable power, lowering carbon emissions and saving consumers money.

Sustainable and energy efficient window treatments and fabrics are available; many are produced locally, reducing carbon footprints. Hunter-Douglas and Lafayette have earned Greenguard certification (www.greenguard.org) for some of their products. Organic cotton and even bamboo fabrics are available.

Energy Star rated appliances have become standard (although not all new appliances are Energy Star!); water saving faucets (in addition to dish and clothes washers) are available.

Adding potted plants to your home is easy, inexpensive and will improve your immediate environment. Growing them from seed or cuttings is even more eco-friendly.

Of course reusing old items is a great way to be green; there are some wonderful finds to be had at Good Will, Salvation Army and other local thrift stores.

The internet is host to an incredible amount of information on the subject, of course and can assist consumers in their quest to become educated. Many of us in the industry are continuing our education to become experts in the field and are happy to share our knowledge with consumers and walk them through the maze of claims to select the products that will best suit their needs for function, beauty, reliability and environmental responsibility. One local resource is Green Sacramento, located in mid-town.

Industry standards are being developed and improved and as organizations such as the Sustainable Furniture Council gain traction it will become easier for consumers to know and understand how "green" the products they're buying really are.

In summary, the best defense against green-washing is to learn as much as possible, ask a lot of questions and consult with an industry expert when in the market for environmentally friendly furnishings. Even pale green is better than no green at all! We will only improve our relationship to Mother Nature in future — the more informed and demanding we all are, the better the industry practices and products will become.

For further information on green home furnishings and products, go to www.sustainablefurnishings.org, www.regreenprogram.org, www.greenseal.org; www.greenguard.org; www.greensacramento.com, www.yolo.com, www.h3environmental.com.



BY JENNY B.

Earth: The Blue and Green Diamond in the Rough

For an estimated 4.54 billion years, Earth has been spinning around in the ever-expanding Universe. Due to Divine origins or hitting the extreme, once in a life-time cosmic lotto jackpot, our planet's position in the solar system created the ideal conditions for life to blossom and evolve into what it is today. As advances in technology and astronomy allow scientists to look further and further into the Universe to search for additional planets that can support life, they are realizing what a unique and remarkable place our planet really is. Earth's abundance of water and life supporting elements are a rarity and a true gem in a vastness of swirling rocks and gasses. Rather than thanking our lucky stars, we should thank this lovely planet for providing us with a place to call home in the midst of so much free floating lifelessness. As Earth Day approaches it's a good time to reflect on the relationship between people and their planet. We've only been hanging out here for the past 6,000 to 25,000 years, and we have a lot to learn and change if we plan on sticking around for that much longer.

It's no surprise that Mother Earth has been cherished and even worshipped in Native American, Pagan, and many cultures world wide. Creation myths and theories abound about man's inheritance of the Earth, and abuse and misuse of those God given powers. The relationship between God, man and Earth is a sacred and serious matter, not to be taken lightly. The Fall of Man is also a common theme in many religions and beliefs. The theory that our long distant ancestors disobeyed God's orders, which led to poverty, war, famine, and oppression, is a common thread through most indigenous tribes throughout Africa. Centuries have been spent trying to reverse those wrongs, and regain the favors of the gods and the land.

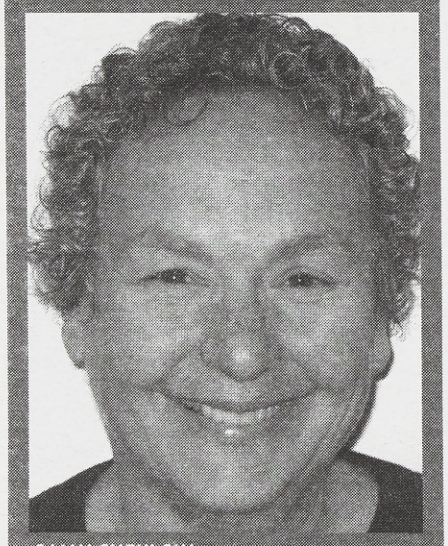
Today in modern and more industrious countries, they are examining the great toll being placed on the planet due to air pollution, over population, global warming, ozone depletion, etc. Awareness is spreading, and people are eager to do their part to get involved and help. More and more cities are providing large containers for people to recycle. Trends show that 'green' has become the new 'black', as award shows and giant corporations are boasting of their efforts at reducing energy usage, while incorporating new inventive ways of 'going green'. This interest and new found popularity in global protection and prevention is a breath of fresh air. I see more and more t-shirt designs pushing 'going green' and recycling, when a few years ago the big fad was bling and excess. Grocery stores offer canvas bags for purchase to reduce plastic and paper bag waste, and many also have plastic bag recycling bins at the store. Many energy companies offer rebates for purchasing energy efficient appliances, and some of the stores offer rebates for purchasing these appliances as well. Kids are learning in schools now that energy sources are not limitless, and that by simply turning out lights when leaving rooms, and turning off water while brushing teeth, they can help to save in energy and water waste. More and more people are becoming aware of environmental issues, and want to become involved in providing the solution.



It seems that the world we leave for our children might be 'greener' than the one we inherited. Our current president is making alternative fuel sources and energy harvesting a major priority. Once our current high level of technology is applied in that direction, I'm sure things will really change. I'm excited to see the outcome of such high ideals on a moralistic and conservative plane. If people were able to create something as powerful as the atomic bomb several decades ago, surely they can create something truly amazing based on humanitarian and eco-friendly ideals? Money, power, and ambition can be applied just as easily to good programs as to bad ones. Let's hope that as a collective body of people we have learned a valuable lesson from a history full of greed and ambition leading towards destruction. Throughout time we have also had enlightened leaders teach us that there is a better way to live life while here on Earth. Gurus such as Jesus, Buddha, and Gandhi stressed living a loving non-violent life, in harmony with God, nature, and people. The choice is ours to make, both individually and collectively. I really think we are on the right track though, and are heading in a more cohesive direction.

So this Earth Day, hug a tree, pick up some trash, play in a park, bask in the sunlight, be grateful to a generous planet, and hopeful for improvements for a brighter, greener tomorrow.

Send comments or questions to womensvoices@momguesswhat.com.



SALLY SHEKLOW
SALLY@WYMPROV.COM

I was thinking about Sam Adams (not the beer, the gay mayor of Portland) when I recently accepted a challenge in a writing workshop to produce one, single, lengthy sentence that, taking inspiration from the notoriously long-winded hypnotic style of William Faulkner, a writer whose scandalous boozing hardly diminished his literary success, unlike the havoc Mayor Adams' lying about an affair is wreaking on his political aspirations, but whom—and I'm referring back to Faulkner here—I've never enjoyed because his renowned brilliance remains well beyond my less-than-erudite literary grasp, not to mention that he's yet another glorified guy (as in MALE) overshadowing the multitude of similarly unconventional and ground-breaking women writers who've never received recognition due to the still-prevalent tradition of blatant sexism, a pet peeve of mine that, unfortunately, falls beyond the scope of this exercise, which challenges me to use a Faulknerian-type verbosity to express one complete thought (as any good sentence, we're taught in the grammar part of grammar school, should do) without resorting to a mere stringing together of random subjects and predicates conjoined by ands and buts, although a few of those are okay, our writing instructor notes, if they actually serve to express the thought rather than just draw out the sentence to achieve the goal of the exercise, a trick I wouldn't dare attempt to play on my cohorts in this workshop nor on our astute instructor, leaving me with the challenge to express my single-sentence thought about—and I do have a point here—Sam Adams, who, as anyone following the saga of this openly gay city leader knows full well, has admitted to lying to voters and the press about a romantic and, more to the point, sexual encounter with a then-eighteen-year-old male intern, leaving us gay-supportive supporters smacking our foreheads about why he couldn't keep it in his pants, and why-oh-why did he even address the reporters' too-personal questions that should never have been asked—never would have been asked, some argue, if he hadn't been gay, although the blue-dress-stain debacle of our not-that-distant political past would, shall we say, emasculate that argument—leaving me now hoping, possibly beyond hope, that after owning up to his lie, still-Mayor Adams will manage redeem himself with an abundance of sincere apologies, a solid plan, and sound economic development work for a city that, like all cities in these tough economic times, would benefit from strong leadership by somebody who can guide the people sustainably and greenly out of its current mess, at the same time convincing voters that an out gay person can fulfill the demands of political office without proving right the homo-haters who live to terrorize us with gay boogie-men (and boogie-WOMEN, dammit), instead permitting Mayor Adams half a chance to make good, successfully overcome adversity, and eclipse his foibles with venerable and irrefutably beneficial contributions to the Rose City—an outcome I'm wishing for but am possibly less likely to see than, say, succeeding at this Faulkner-inspired long-sentence challenge.

Award-winning writer Sally Sheklow completes her thoughts in Eugene, Oregon.



BY NIKKI

Danger In the Soil

Earth day is amongst us, a time to celebrate all the blessings that this abundant planet has to offer all of its inhabitants. We breathe the precious oxygen, we reap and sow the nutrients that come from the vegetation, and it is a continuous process that allows us to live.

But what if the soil we dig in turns on us? What is the air we suck into our lungs is full of poison? This is not a set for a science fiction film, this is real. This is happening, and so very, very near to home. This is something most of us have never heard of, a dirty secret of sorts that is well known to the counties that harbor it, and the Disease Control Center that monitors its devastating effects on both humans and animals. The evil is that of concealment, knowledge is power and you are about to attain that knowledge so that you can make a much more informed decision next time you take a drive down South.

I can only tell you my story and the helplessness that coccidioidomycosis, otherwise known as "Valley Fever" can create. My partner and I have been together for over 11 years now, and she has been a Bridge Builder for over 20 years. Not any bridge builder, a top-notch foreman, a get-the-job-done, and get it done right type of person; a girl who attained the nick-name "The Girl" on the job and is very well known and respected in her field. She was sent down to Bakersfield to work for a smaller company on a side job to build a culvert. It was to last 3 weeks and she came home on the weekends in between. After 2 weeks of digging in the dirt without respirators or any kind of protection she came home for the weekend. It was the San Francisco Pride Parade weekend and we went to celebrate. To my surprise she wanted to leave early, was tired and extremely out of breath while walking uphill towards our hotel.

Stage two, we get home and she begins to feel ill. She must be coming down with the flu, so she rests up in order to get back to Bakersfield that next morning. She never gets better … that was 10 months ago. By Sunday, she begins to have sharp pains in her chest and we need to go to the emergency room. They perform several tests and decide that she has pulled some muscles as her x-rays are clear. We return home. Over the next week she develops a high fever and sweats all through the night, soaking shirt after shirt. She cannot get out of bed. We take her to the doctor's office and the doctor says that she has pneumonia and prescribes antibiotics. Her mother informs her that her brother (who also worked with her in Bakersfield) also has pneumonia. That was strange.

She placed a call down to the owner of the company to let him know that both her & her brother had pneumonia, and to her surprise the owner also had pneumonia. This to me was unheard of, so I began investigating online. I punched in Bakersfield and pneumonia, and what the computer spit out at me was horrifying. Information on Valley Fever, its symptoms and prognosis jumped off the screen and into my lap. I ran downstairs armed with this serious information and called her doctor. Her doctor immediately ordered another x-ray and her lungs were full of fungus and it was rapidly growing. Most doctors are not familiar with this disease and it often goes undiagnosed as it takes a couple of weeks to months to show up in the lungs and longer in the bloodstream. Her doctor called yet another doctor, one who specialized in infectious disease. She was instantly placed on 400mg of Fluconozole to inhibit the growth of the fungus, as without treatment Cocci or Valley Fever can be FATAL.

We placed calls to her boss and her brother so that they all would receive proper treatment and in the end all 12 workers had been infected with this deadly disease. They are all still off work and under doctor's surveillance. There is no cure for Valley Fever, and these workers were not adequately protected at the job, nor were they ever informed that such a danger lurked within the soil that they tore into while they labored and sucked breath after breath of the airborne fungus deep into their lungs. While it only takes one tiny spore to wreak havoc, they most likely inhaled thousands of spores. These microscopic spores cannot not be seen by the naked eye and once ingested begin to multiply into more spores, continuing on like a cancer, and spreading to virtually any part of the body. The fungus is more powerful and deadlier than anthrax. In fact, it is on the terrorist list of deadly agents and was once considered to be used as chemical weaponry, but it proved too deadly to handle, so the idea was quickly discontinued. The fungus that causes Valley Fever is regulated by the federal government in the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, yet people everyday go unknowingly into the depths of danger as they work in, live in, and visit the areas where it grows.

Because of the amount of spores that were inhaled by my partner and her crew, most of the workers, if not all, have been diagnosed with disseminated coccidioidomycosis. This unfortunately and diagnostically leaves a poor prognosis for my partner and her crew. The symptoms change as the disease spreads into different areas of the body, creating many systematic problems. My partner, who lost twenty pounds during the first month, now has 18 nodules and one third of those have cavitated in her lungs, she has developed arthritis in her joints, she has skin lesions, and once even woke up with a black eye. One of the most devastating effects of disseminated coccidioidomycosis is fungal meningitis, which my partner fortunately does not have at this time. However, she will most likely be on fluconozole her entire life, which puts her at risk for liver and kidney damage. As with any strong agent, this is one of the serious side effects of the medication that is necessary for her to take in order to control the growth of this deadly fungus.

When a loved one develops a life-threatening disease, you tend to become an expert of sorts on any possible solution or cure; you look at every angle for hope and reassurance. However, the disease manifests itself in different ways and doctors are still learning how to treat it, the scientists are still trying to create a vaccine to end Valley Fever, and those affected personally by coccidioidomycosis still struggle through the days, and especially the nights waiting to heal. So my friends … roll up your windows and close your vents, especially when it is windy, while driving down I-5 towards Fresno and beyond, as it may save your life. Never dig in the dirt down south and help spread the word as most people have never heard of Valley Fever. A dusk mask will not save you. It takes a highly technical custom-fit respirator to filter out the tiny spores. While there should be some sort of a warning posted as you drive through such a lethal area, there is not.

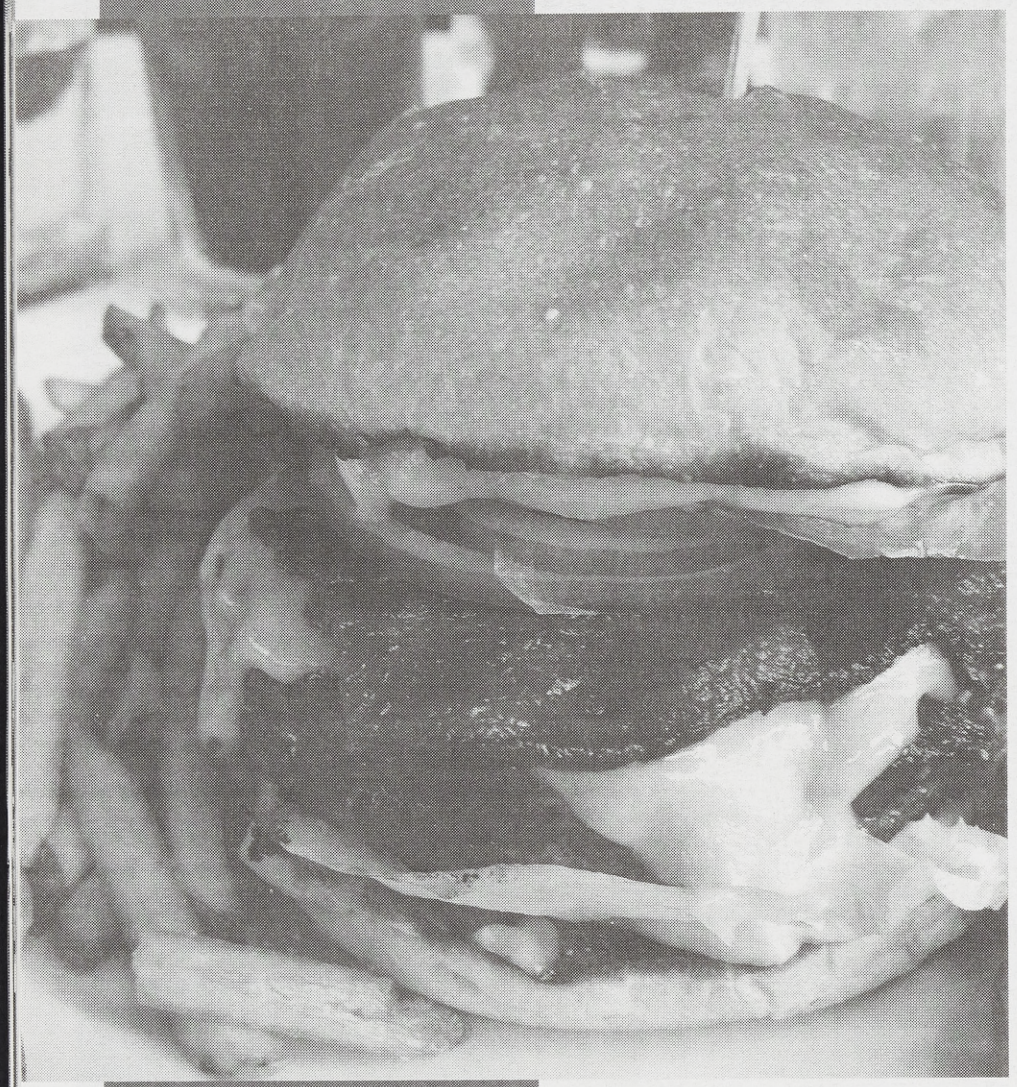
As for my partner, who was once so very strong and, in fact, led the tear down of the entire Carquinez bridge, and then rode atop of it afterwards as it cruised between barges down the Bay, screams out in pain each night because she cannot lift her deteriorating arms. The company where she worked for over 15 years still sends her plans for the next big job, and calls with attempts to get her back to work. But the boss who once stated that "she can outwork any man" has not seen her for almost an entire year and simply cannot fathom the devastation that has occurred within her tiny body and simply waits for the day that she can return to her former glory. The truth is this will likely never happen. Valley Fever has robbed her of her career, her health, her future, her identity, and given her reason to be distrustful. There are many others who have watched their loves ones wither away and even die, I can only share my story with you and hope that it saves someone from this disease or in some way educates others about the hidden dangers of Valley Fever. Doctors estimate that only 2 percent of those suffering from Valley Fever are properly diagnosed, although there were over 400,000 people diagnosed in 2207 nationally. In the U.S. Valley Fever is prevalent in Southern California, Arizona, Texas, and Nevada.

Symptoms of Valley Fever include:

Flu-like symptoms; Malaise/chronic exhaustion; Fever; Muscle aches; Shortness of breath/wheezing; Muscle stiffness; Coughing (can be chronic and severe); Joint pain; Coughing up blood; Joint swelling; Chest pain/pressure; Joint stiffness; Night sweats/Chills; Leg/ankle/foot swelling; Headaches; Photosensitivity; Nausea; *Vision problems/blindness Loss of appetite; **Neck stiffness; Weight loss; **Inability to focus and concentrate; Rash; **Foot drop or partial paralysis; Burning sensations at various parts of the body (foot, joints, etc.); **Severe head pain (as opposed to a normal headache)

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REVIEW & PHOTOS BY
ROBERT APPLEGATE

Paragary's Bar & Grill

Paragary's Bar and Grill in Stockton. Yes, you read that right … Stockton! Your local hometown Restaurateur Randy Paragary has ventured south with a satellite restaurant in Downtown Stockton and it is nothing short of exceptional.

Housed in the historic Hotel Stockton the restaurant is full of character and charm fully taking advantage of the historic building. Completion of the Hotel Stockton was completed in 1910 and sat at the edge of the Delta. The Hotel was designed by Edgar Brown and shows architecture elements of the Mission Revival Style. Since 1910 the Hotel Stockton has had to reinvent itself several times over and has been used for City Hall, Government Offices, a Radio Station and many other uses the past 100 years.

Currently however, its use as a welcomed restaurant to the Stockton dining scene is by far its best!

I dine at Paragary's Bar and Grill weekly. I have held meetings in the semi-private dining room, taken my family and friends there for meals, and when my picky palate is requesting only the finest lunch, I dine alone.

The restaurant sits on the bottom floor on the west side of The Hotel Stockton overlooking the Delta. Great sunsets can be seen from the many windows that overlook the recently redeveloped area. The restaurant itself is very handsome with warm tones of brown leather seating, soft blue and brown booths, and a stunning bar that sits in the middle of the restaurant. The dining room is separated by a beautiful wood and glass wine storage area. The entire restaurant is very reminiscent of a Chop House of the 1930's, very masculine and welcoming. The high ceilings are coffered with silver inlay. Soft jazz music plays in the background as you enjoy your meal and listen to the open kitchen staff working. The kitchen offers great smells and affords those with a penchant for cooking the opportunity to sneak a peak into the real inner workings of a kitchen.

My last visit was for lunch and my dining partner was my beautiful youngest daughter Lauren. She ordered the Warm Spinach Salad that came with pancetta, egg, mushrooms, house made croutons and light sherry vinaigrette. The salad was beautifully presented and tasted spectacular. Everything very obviously fresh. I started with the Iceberg Wedge salad, which is a welcomed salad from the 1950's. The Salad was topped with homemade chunky blue cheese dressing, red onion, tomato, and radishes. Both salads were prepared perfectly and fresh.

For our lunch entrée Lauren ordered the New York Steak Sandwich with chimichurri sauce and watercress served on a homemade roll along with a side of fresh French fries. I ordered the Niman Ranch Angus Burger, which is house ground daily with locally grown red onion, tomato, lettuce and house made aioli. I had the choice of a small salad, freshly made barbeque chips or French fries. I too decided to indulge and have the piping hot fries. Both of our entries were prepared with care and arrived perfectly to our table. Everything was hot, fresh, and smelled wonderful. I was taking pictures of each item as it arrived to our table, and while they will look good in print, it doesn't do the dishes justice as part of the dining experience is the smell and taste. You can't taste a magazine. I hope that the picture entices you to try one of these dishes as each was spectacular.

The restaurant has both a great lunch and dinner menu offering many choices for many different palates. All the pasta dishes are excellent. I highly recommend the Hand cut Rosemary Pasta that is made fresh daily on site and is full of seared chicken, artichokes, pancetta, leeks, garlic and Parmesan. It melts in your mouth. The Pan Fried Petrale Sole is on both the lunch and the dinner menu. It is excellent, probably one of the best dishes on the menu. Other fish dishes include grilled salmon with a ginger-soy glaze and recently they have offered a dinner special of Halibut served over lemon risotto. They're a lots of items on the menu for Vegetarians also.

In keeping with a true fresh menu, items change due to availability and seasonally. Nothing here is from a freezer waiting to be pulled and warmed up. It's all fresh and freshly made. All breads are made in house as well as all desserts. The pastry chef changes the menu to reflect the season and creates fresh desserts each week. The chefs working under the direction of Executive Chef Kurt Spataro are well trained themselves and take pride in what they present. If you notice throughout the review, I use the words "house made" often, that's because everything is fresh, house made, not out of a jar or freezer. Fresh….something that those of us who eat out often have forgotten about.

At my last staff meeting I held at Paragary's Bar and Grill, the head chef Buddy came out to the table and asked each of my guests if they enjoyed their meal and explained some of the dishes. It was a treat and welcomed by my staff. When he left I told them, "see….you're not at Black Angus!" It made an impact and each of them have since ventured to the restaurant on their own to try something new.

Offered at both lunch and dinner is a great wine list as well as custom made drink cocktails created by the employees to enhance your meal. Soda, tea, and filtered sparkling water are available as well.

The restaurant is offering lots of incentives to try them out and if you haven't been here, you are missing out on something memorable. Stocktonians misconception that this is an expensive restaurant is mistaken. My freshly ground steak burger was $10.00 and came with fresh fries and homemade pickles. You can drive up the street on the Avenue and have a burger and fries for about the same, but you will miss out on the freshness, outstanding service, and beautiful surroundings. Don't let white table clothes and professional staff scare you away, this is a restaurant that makes perfect food in a great setting. You need to try it out.

Other events the restaurant is holding include a Happy Hour Tuesday through Friday from 3:00 until 6:00 with $2.00 fries, beers, $3.00 Panini sandwich and $3.00 drinks including wine, lemon drops, beers, and $4.00 Mojito's, margarita's, and beers. Another event, the "Dine Around the World" is offered the 3rd Thursday of every month. It features different world cuisine to include: French, Italian, Greek, Middle Eastern, Central American, or Asian infusion just to name a few. Call and check each month to see what the food will be for that month.

Valet parking is available for a small fee, however the redeveloped area does include plenty of parking. I personally am looking forward to see if they start to use their rooftop-dining terrace that has spectacular views of the reemerging city. If you dine there and would like to see the terrace, ask your server if they can point you in the direction. It's great view and romantic spot. It needs to be utilized!

Paragary's Bar & Grill is located at 110 N. El Dorado Street in downtown Stockton. (209) 943-1110. Paragarys.com for a full list of all the restaurants. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch served Tuesday through Friday only.

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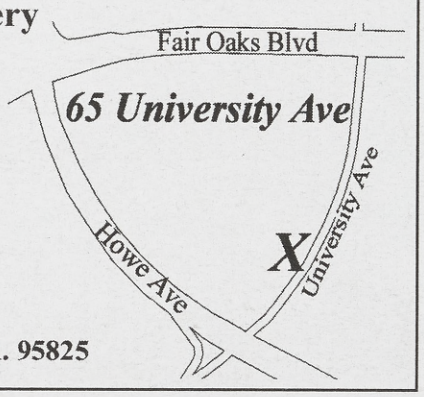
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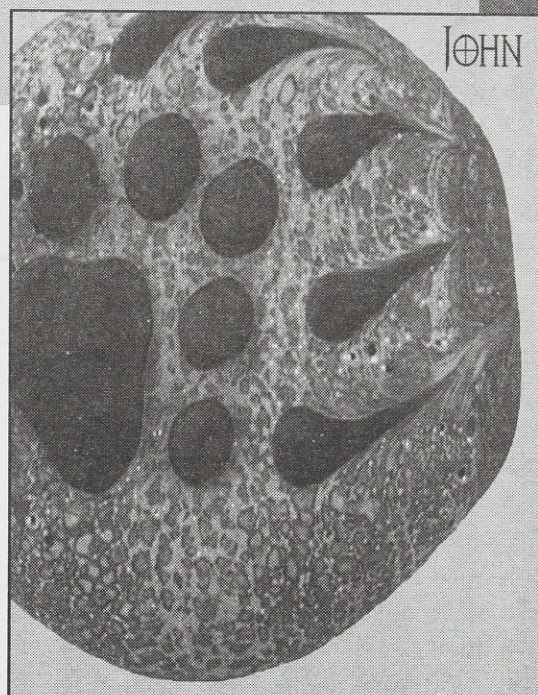
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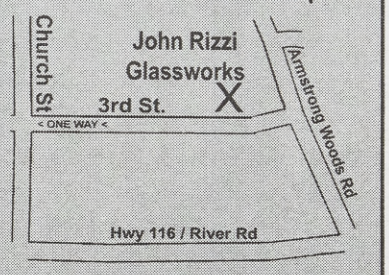


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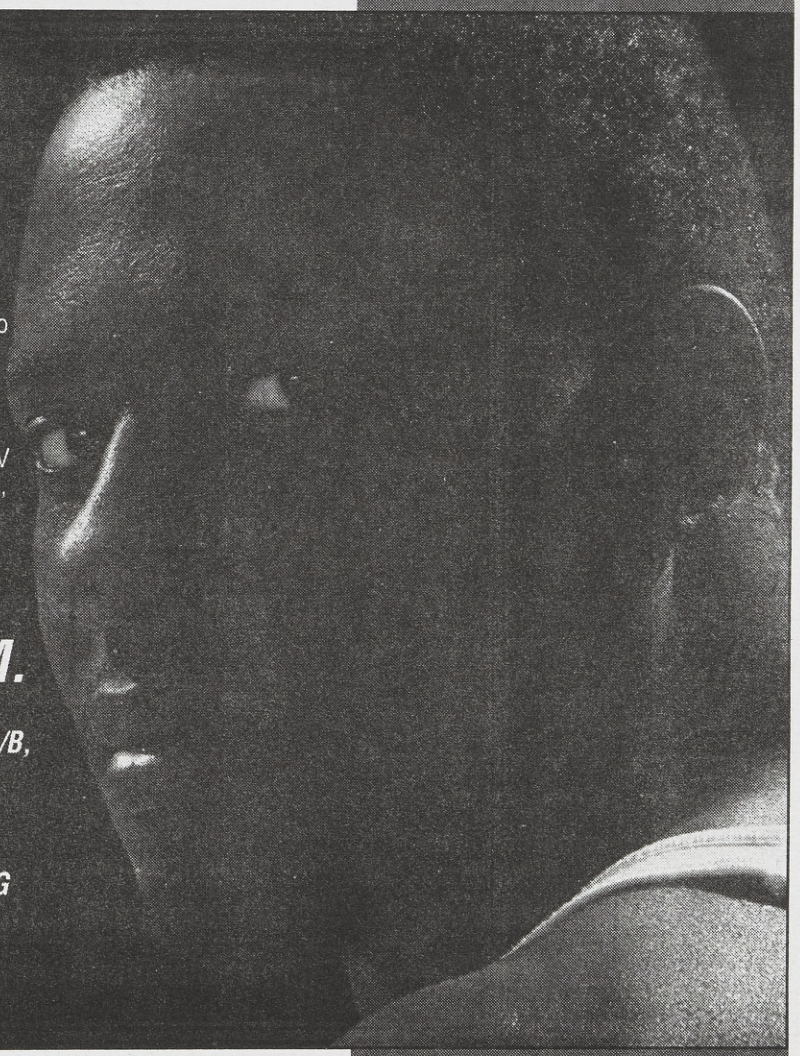
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Garbeau's Closes

BY MARK FERREIRA

After launching a two-month campaign to try to save Garbeau's Dinner Theatre and twice believing they might have succeeded, owners of the 27-year-old community landmark have announced they will be closing their doors on May 31st. "We obviously misinterpreted our landlord," said Mark Ferreira, CEO and co-owner of Garbeau's.

The owners had believed that after meeting a well-publicized financial deadline on March 16th, they would be able to negotiate rent with their Washington-based landlord, Andy Lakha of Lakha Investments, Inc., headquartered in Bellevue, Washington. Instead, they were told the negotiations would be dependent on a new April 1st deadline, which was met with help from the offices of Senator Dave Cox, Senator Darrel Steinberg, and Board of Equalization Member Bill Leonard. "When we opened, we made a disproportionately large sales tax deposit," Ferreira explained, "and their offices moved with incredible speed to reassess the deposit and refund a substantial portion."

While declining to negotiate the rent, Lakha did offer to waive all past and future monies owed in exchange for a clean walk away. "We appreciate his allowing us to operate through May 31st and we hope the best for his future tenant," Ferreira said.

Garbeau's is continuing plans for their Easter brunch, comedy nights, Thursday evening karaoke, their current weekend production There's a Little Bit of Broadway in Everyone, and closing parties through May. Until then, the owners are asking everyone who has a memory at Garbeau's to come as a patron or visitor and sign a wall in their theater. "Even though it will be eventually painted over, we want Garbeau's to have a permanent presence here," said co-owner Andrea Castel.

Though reopening Garbeau's in the future is a possibility, Ferreira says discussing it is premature. "For now, we would simply like to celebrate our last production surrounded by friends." He concluded, "We did the best we could with what we had and we will be forever grateful for the community support we've received."

Garbeau's website is posting information regarding which theaters have pledged to honor Garbeau's season passes through 2009. More information can be found at www.garbeaus.com or by calling Garbeau's box office at (916) 985-6361.

Sac Women's Chorus

'Spring into Song', Friday April 24, 7:30pm with Courtney Parks, Irina Rivkin and Sacramento Women's Chorus. The concert will be at the First Christian Church at 3901 Folsom Blvd, Sac, 95819. For ticket info, call 916 - 534 - 7402.

Pagans Invade Library

GLBT Pagans Of Sacramento will be meeting up every 1st and 2nd Wed. night of the month at 7pm. We have found a home base for our meetings. Lavender Library at 1414 21st St. Sacramento. All GLBT Pagans in the Sacramento area, need to meet and work together to build a better community of all of us. We will meet up for support and for ideas for us to do things as a group in our community. We would like to form a group for public and private Rituals, Festivals, drum circles, and so much more. We look forward to meeting with you!

Humor Times Turns 18

The Humor Times, a monthly political satire magazine launched in Sacramento in 1991 and now available worldwide, is celebrating its 18th anniversary with the April issue, out now.

Appropriately enough for a publication bent on tickling readers' funny bones, its birthday was April Fools Day, 1991. The free monthly was immediately well-received, and coming on the heels of the launch of the weekly Sacramento News & Review, it was a welcome departure from the staid political coverage of the past. Beginning with a circulation of 10,000, it quickly grew to nearly 40,000 in a few short years. The circulation was concentrated in certain areas, notably the downtown-midtown area, and so became a favorite of downtown politicos and office workers.

The Humor Times eventually converted from a free paper to a subscription-based publication at the start of 2008. According to publisher James Israel, the economic downturn that began in 2007 "caused local businesses to begin tightening their belts, and unfortunately, that meant less advertising for us." The magazine, while "never threatening to bust into the Fortune 500," nevertheless held its own up to that point.

"We never could attract much in the way of big corporate advertising accounts," said Israel, "being that we were not the dominant weekly or daily in the area, the two types of papers that tend to attract the big ad bucks." As the recession began to take hold, and advertising dollars dwindled, it became obvious to Israel that the Humor Times could no longer afford to just give away the magazine for free.

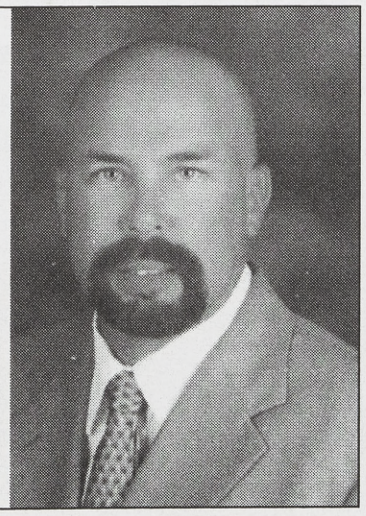
"But there is one other publication like ours making it as a national subscription magazine, and I believe we can match their success with a little luck and financial backing," said Mr. Israel. The Funny Times is a few years older and now boasts over 75,000 subscribers. "Naturally, we have what I consider a better product, and with a national marketing push like they had, I think we could grow to the same level or bigger," Israel added, "so we will continue to seek investors."

For now, the Humor Times is on a solid financial footing, and according to Israel, is happy to be where they are, with a dedicated following of readers from all over the country. A large percentage of its subscribers are from the Sacramento area, and the company tries to remain in the local public eye by co-sponsoring and tabling at events, having booths at fairs and festivals, stocking the magazine for sale at area outlets, and occasionally placing sample back issues around town.

The 18th anniversary issue is available now in Sacramento at Newsbeat, Big Brother Comics, the Book Collector, World's Best Comics; in Davis at Bizarro World; and online at humortimes.com. Subscriptions are $18.95/year (12 issues – a dollar less when ordered online), and a 3-issue trial subscription is available for only $5.95. An online PDF version of the paper is available for download by subscription as well, for $9.95 a year.

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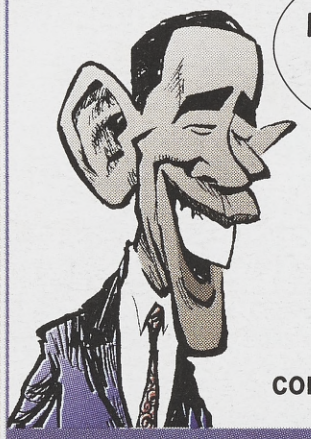


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TOM SWANNER HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 10+ YEARS. HE LIVES IN SACRAMENTO WITH HIS 25-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND SEAN AND THEIR GROSSLY OBESE DAUGHTER (READ DOG) "HONEY".



BRIAN JUDD HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 6 YEARS. HE LIVES IN SMALL APARTMENT WHERE A PORTRAIT OF ANITA BRYANT HANGS OVER HIS BED SO HE CAN POINT AT HER AND LAUGH DAILY. HE IS ALONE AND BITTER AND LIKES IT THAT WAY.

Swanner & Judd

SWANNERANDJUDD.COM

FAST & FURIOUS

Swanner: It's no surprise that I've never been a fan of the Fast & Furious franchise. It's loud and it deals with cars and gross stuff, not to mention that they are breaking like hundreds of laws during the movie. In this fourth installment and we have Vin Diesel and Paul Walker reprising the roles they originated in The Fast and the Furious. Those would be the same roles they swore they'd never do again, until their individual careers had all but died.

Judd: The cars are the only reason to watch these movies. Why did you go see this one?

Swanner: Sean wanted to see it and I'm trying to be more flexible with my entertainment choices.

Judd: I'm so glad I'm single. Was this one better than the last one?

Swanner: I kind of liked Tokyo Drift, which was the third one, but I hated the second one 'cause it sucked, and I could never watch the first one all the way through. This one was okay, I guess. Vin Diesel has been hijacking gas trucks in South America all these years and now he's decided to come back to America and check out things. After Michelle Rodriguez has an "accident", Diesel is out for revenge. She had been mixed with some drug smugglers so Diesel gets involved and of course it's the same case that Walker is working on. You still awake?

Judd: Barely. Is there more? Who cares. There are only two questions I have, how was the racing and who still has "IT"? You know. "The Stuff."

Swanner: There is a lot of story and it's all boring but the racing sequences are amazing. I'm sure it's a lot of special effects, but it looks real and when this car wraps around a pole ... it was cool. The best part of the movie for me was Vin Diesel. Not because of his brilliant acting skills ... no, it was how hot he looked. Every scene has him in a skin tight shirt and every once in a while ... a sleeveless shirt. Those are some guns I'd allow in my house. For 42 years old he is fine. Paul Walker, on the other hand, looked older and tired. He went from "Damn, who's that?" to "Who's dad is that?" And lets face it, when Vin Diesel looks like the better actor ... well, you get my point.

Judd: Of course they added effects in to enhance the excitement. It's all about the thrill. The music gets louder and the edits come faster. I can't believe you didn't like the movie. You share the same mentality as it's target teenage demographic. I don't think Walker looks that bad in the pictures I've seen, and what a surprise you'd be all over Vin Diesel. Is it the grunting of lines that drives you crazy, or the fact that if he stopped working out he'd be 300 pounds?

Swanner: Vin Diesel is just a hunk. Paul Walker's boyishness is gone. He can still flash that smile but when you watch this in high def you'll know what I mean. He's maturing quickly and putting him up against Diesel is no contest.

Judd: I do love that they swore they would never do another one of these movies and Paul Walker was talking about how the next one was going to be in Europe. At least they aren't to proud to pass up on a good thing. After this opening weekend with a box office of $71 million you have to figure they got something right and now they'll get paid more for the Fast & Furious: European Drive by.

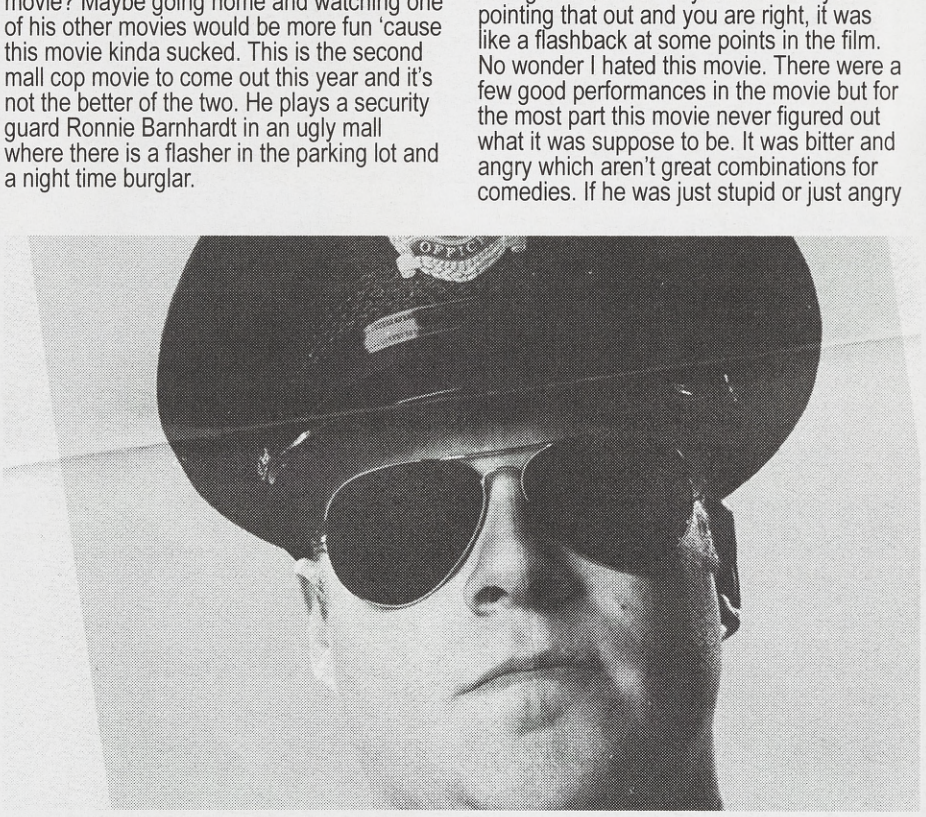
Swanner: Maybe they'll hit the beach in Europe ... Vin Diesel in a Speedo!!!

Judd: There is something seriously wrong with you.

Swanner: 1 1/2 Stars

OBSERVE AND REPORT

Swanner: What could be better then attending a screening of the new Seth Rogan movie? Maybe going home and watching one of his other movies would be more fun 'cause this movie kinda sucked. This is the second mall cop movie to come out this year and it's not the better of the two. He plays a security guard Ronnie Barnhardt in an ugly mall where there is a flasher in the parking lot and a night time burglar.



Judd: I think the problem with this movie is that it's rooted in a genre neither one of us particularly like. It was like a grown up, violent version of Napoleon Dynamite. It's a genre that I don't like because it's sole intent is to make a laughing stock out of characters who don't know any better. The majority of Observe is spent putting Rogen in supposedly comical situations where he's being degraded. That's not to say there aren't some funny moments. Anna Farris plays a cosmetics counter girl who loves to have a good time and character actress Celia Weston has a hysterical turn as Rogen's drunken mother.

Swanner: But that's the problem I had. His mother is a falling down drunk, he has sex with a woman who has passed out or he's hassling foreigners because they are foreign. He's an asshole and he probably has an IQ below 100. This is who I'm supposed to root for? Sure there were funny parts but the problem here is script and lead actor. His character should be the bad guy or at least realize he's a major asshole and fix it by the end. At the end...he's still an asshole.

Judd: You can't root for someone who's a borderline retarded, racist asshole? Why not? You dated one for 11 years. Anyway, I thought his character flaws were the best part of the movie – at least it gave us something to laugh at outside of unfunny awkward moments. And Farris was not passed out when he was having sex with her, and his mother only fell down and soiled herself once. I didn't like the movie because it tried to be too many things. I already mentioned the Napoleon Dynamite style humor, but it also wanted to be a bloody action film with a touch of Wes Anderson. It was a disjointed hodgepodge.

Swanner: I hate all those genres... including the films of Wes Anderson. Now it's all starting to make sense. As far as the dating a moron for 11 years...thank you pointing that out and you are right, it was like a flashback at some points in the film. No wonder I hated this movie. There were a few good performances in the movie but for the most part this movie never figured out what it was suppose to be. It was bitter and angry which aren't great combinations for comedies. If he was just stupid or just angry with some resolution at the end...it might have worked for me but the main character never grows or learns and at the end he's still the same asshole he was when I met him... I mean he's still the same asshole he was at the beginning.

Judd: I also felt that plot was too expansive. It covers Ronnie's (Rogen) desire to be a real cop, catch a pervert and a burglar, date the cosmetics girl, defend the coffee girl, deal with his drunken mother and keep his mental stability. There was too much for his character to do and all of it felt shoehorned in.

Swanner: We forgot to mention that the last ten minutes has a 45 year old 280 pound flasher running through the mall with his trench coat open. Talk about scenes I could have done without and that's coming from me. If it hadn't been for Anna Farris and Celia Weston the movie would have been a total loss.

Judd: Whatever you rate the movie I will give it ½ star more because the movie used Queen in the soundtrack, and anytime you use Queen in the soundtrack you get a bonus ½ point.

Swanner: 1 Star
Judd: 1 1/2 Stars

Exercise Tips & Secrets

FOLLOW AN EFFECTIVE EXERCISE ROUTINE!

Before exercising, warm up and stretch. This helps prevent injury and maximize efforts. Workouts should start out smooth and easy.

Let's start with this very important rule, "Never overdo the first few workouts". Beginners often fall into this trap, especially if overly excited, losing patience or trying to show off. Avoid going "All out", as this may cause joints to lock-up and muscle pain. Don't try to do in two weeks what can take years to accomplish.

Don't focus on the same muscle group every workout. Concentrate on the body as a whole by planning a routine that helps tone and tighten the entire body. Research effective exercising or talk with an expert about creating an effective exercise routine, and how to workout safely, so you can reach your goals.

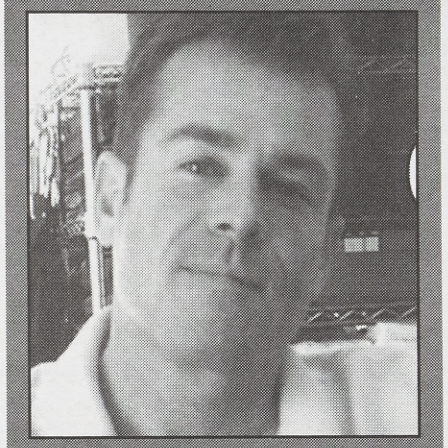
"Be Consistent" was last issue's topic. Remember today's tip, clip it out, save it on the fridge, and follow up with next issue's topic, "Use the Buddy System".

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM!

Need help exercising? Find a buddy. Exercising with a buddy has many advantages; buddies go to the gym together, they motivate each other, show up for workouts, exercise more consistently, and it's more difficult to skip exercising. Buddies can spot each other, make workouts safer, push each other harder, become more advanced, try new exercises, get a better workout, help meet each others goals, keep workouts on track, learn and have fun together, and time permitting, have a cup of coffee afterward. Preferably, choose a buddy with a similar body weight, fitness level and goal for strength training and cardio endurance. Buddies can workout together or separately. One might lift weights and the other might run. Later, they might get together to do abs or stretch. Be careful, as one buddy may not be as strong, and may push too hard causing themselves injury.

Consult a pro about how to workout safely, create a routine, and spot your buddy correctly. "Follow an Effective Exercise Routine" was last issue's topic. Remember today's tip, clip it out, save it on the fridge, and make sure to read next issue's topic, "Make a Plan Fit Your Lifestyle".

Feel free to contact Michael A. Cook, at (916) 813-9009, with questions, comments or suggestions. Michael has 15 years of experience as a certified personal fitness trainer, and is owner of Fitness-Happens.com and the East Sacramento Training Studio.



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As seniors we face common problems of aging, illness and the loss of friends, partners, and relatives. As LGBT people, we sometimes face estrangement from our neighbors and families. It would be good to unite to form a community of support for each other in Sacramento as well as online. In other cities such organizations have flourished and have provided companionship, fellowship, and mutual nurturing to LGBT seniors.

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I died on a table several months ago.

I know! Dramatic, right?

A little while ago I overheard a personal trainer at my gym talking about gastric bypass surgery. He was with another client, and didn't know that I had had the procedure just a few months before.

"These gastric bypass people are just taking the easy way out," he laughed to the pretty girl he was coaching, "They don't have the willpower to exercise or put down the éclair. It's sad, really, that they think they can just change their lives POOF, just like that."

I didn't say anything. Maybe I should have, but I was on hour two of my workout and was seriously debating between passing out from exhaustion or just throwing up on the rowing machine.

It did set me to thinking about my "easy way out" of obesity, though. You know, the surgery where they cut your stomach in half, rearrange your intestines, and stop you from eating solid food for a couple months. The "easy way" with a 1 in 300 mortality rate.

I spent November 4th, 2008, like it was my last day on Earth. I made it a good one. I woke up early so that I could watch the sun rise on my wall and listen to the world wake up. My cat and I watched one of my favorite movies while I scratched her ears and cleaned my room around her. She wouldn't let me do the pile of laundry in the corner, though – that was hers. I changed my sheets in case I would get to come home again and made sure that the cat had extra food in case I didn't.

I went and I voted early in the day. I remember hoping as I put the little ink pen into the voting hole that the man I was voting for was actually the man I believed him to be. I remember hoping for a better world, and thinking that was strange since I wasn't sure I'd still be in it, or even get to see it begin.

I read the last few pages of a book I've read a hundred times at a coffee place I sneak off to, sometimes, and watched the world talk. The elections had everyone in a tense place. Everyone could feel it – the world was on the verge of change, or sinking deeper into a dark, dark place. I knew how it felt. The book was "Small Gods", by Terry Pratchett, a story by an atheist about the last man to truly believe in God.

I made love to a friend that night that was visiting from New York. He's smart, handsome, and someone that strangely only valued me for the very body I was trying to get rid of. I never told him that I was saying goodbye that night, and I never told him the reason I couldn't share one last dinner with him was because I'd had my last supper two days before.

When the elevator opened to his hotel lobby there was a woman in a business suit. I saw her tears before I saw her smile. When I realized that everyone in the lobby was laughing and smiling, I glanced at the television and realized that a new president had been elected. The new world had started when I was saying goodbye to the old one, and people were crying with the joy of it. I remember feeling very happy that, no matter what else happened, I'd been able to see the beginning of it.

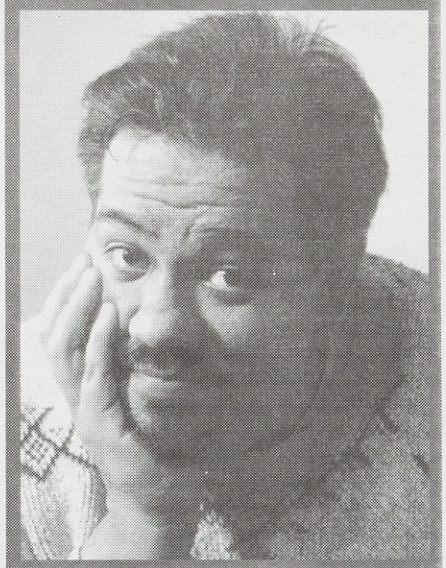
I spent my last few hours with my friends, some of the people I love best. I didn't want any of them to know I was saying goodbye. Either I would see them again and saying goodbye would have been silly, or I wouldn't see them again and saying goodbye would have been cruel. Instead, I made sure to hug each one of them and accept their well wishes for my journey the next day while I quietly wished each one of them the best of all possible lives.

The next morning, on November 5th, 2008, I said goodbye to my old life and checked into the hospital at 5:45 in the morning. A mortality rate of 1 in 300 is statistically good odds. You have better odds at winning at roulette than dying on the operating table. But sitting in a hospital at 5:45 in the morning on a Wednesday morning you tend to wonder if you're going to be seeing Thursday.

I say I died on the table during the surgery because, in a way, the person I was didn't leave the operating room. The surgery didn't change who I am, but it was the final step in my changing myself. It was the final goodbye to many of the things that defined me - the fears, the excuses, the self pity, the comfort of food, the rock solid knowledge of who I was. I knew how to function as a fat man – a fun, brassy, loud-mouthed man who knew how to use his size to every possible advantage except for self respect. I had no idea who I would be after, or if I would be especially good at being the new me. I traded the life I knew for a life I'd only imagined.

When things get hard, I think of myself on the table scared, very alone, and naked and surrounded by strangers in facemasks. Hoping that I'd made the right choice, wondering if I'd wake up again. I think of the sacrifice the old me made so that the new me could be here, and sometimes that's all it takes for me to do 10 more minutes on the treadmill. That man died so I could live. I died for me.

You can imagine what I think when I hear people suggest anyone who had the surgery took the "easy way" out. That trainer had better watch his step. The next time I won't be throwing up on the rowing machine.



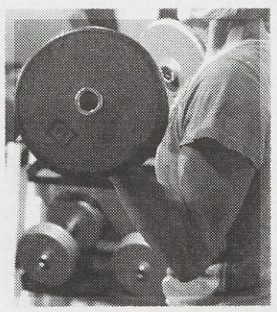
HUMORIST AND SATIRIST DONALD E. MARSHALL IS A 35-YEAR-OLD GAY MAN LIVING IN HOLLYWOOD, CA WHO RECENTLY MADE SOME CHANGES IN HIS LIFE. OVER THE PAST YEAR, HE'S LOST 130 POUNDS BETWEEN DIETING, EXERCISE AND GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY. HIS LIFE IS CHANGING QUICKLY, AS IS THE WORLD HE LIVES IN. THE LOCAL ALL YOU CAN EAT CHINESE BUFFET HAS GONE OUT OF BUSINESS. TRAINERS AT THE GYM NO LONGER HIDE UNDER THE DESK WHEN HE WALKS BY AND HE'S EXPLORING THE WHOLE NEW WORLD OF FASHION, DESPITE THE PROTESTS OF LOCAL SALESGIRLS. BEST OF ALL, HE'S LOVING LIFE IN A WAY HE HAVEN'T IN YEARS!

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PHOTO BY ALAN MERCER

INTERVIEW BY
MATTHEW BURLINGAME

Levi Kreis: Where He Belongs

LEVIKREIS.COM

If Levi Kreis' acclaimed sophomore release, "The Gospel According To Levi", took listeners through the complicated and painful past of a young man growing up under the grip of religious fundamentalism, then it must have been cleansing for Kreis because there is no trace of hardship in the new "Where I Belong". His new CD is the most positive, uplifting offering witnessed from this piano man. We expect the "Levi hook", but this time around, they simmer with Southern soul that rings truer than any previous endeavor.

Kreis released his debut album "One of the Ones" in 2005 following an appearance on NBC Donald Trump. Combined with an exclusive CD premiere on XM Radio, the world introduction to Levi began a firestorm of conversation. Songs from his debut CD have been featured on The Apprentice, Days Of Our Lives, and The Young And The Restless spawning national television appearances and radio rotation. His sophomore CD released in 2006, "The Gospel According To Levi", garnered more television and film placement and a music video for the single "We which held the #1 position for nine weeks on MTV's LOGO Network. With nearly 300 appearances in 2006-07, Kreis has shared the stage with Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, Snoop Dog, Farrel, Collective Soul, and opened for Cyndi Lauper at Wrigley Field.

Kreis's 1997 move to Los Angeles found him cast as "Roger" in a National Tour of Rent where he unexpectedly discovered his love for acting. His natural musical talents complemented his budding on-screen abilities and he was cast as one of the musical leads in the award-winning independent film "Don't let Go." After completing a few short films, Levi was invited to work with Bill Paxton and Matthew McConaughey in Paxton debut "Frailty" where Kreis played the emotional role of Adam Meiks.

In fall of 2007, Kreis took a break from touring to become the original cast member in a new hit musical called "Million Dollar Quartet", where he received astounding reviews for his portrayal of Jerry Lee Lewis, and went on to launch the official national debut at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. 2008 provided a record-breaking run, and Kreis received enthusiastic praise from The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Seattle Times, among others.

"Where I Belong" proves that Kreis has come into his own with a sound nostalgic for his gospel roots and southern soul, and promises to be the most defined chapter in this young prolific singer/ songwriters promising career.

"Where I Belong" will be available May 5, but Sacramento fans will get a sneak peek and a chance to get an advanced copy Saturday, May 2 at the Levi Kreis CD Release Party and wine tasting, 6pm at the Scoot Shop 1619A E St. in Sacramento. The event is sponsored by MGW Newsmagazine (momguesswhat.com), Valley Rainbow Pages (VRP.info) and GaySacramento.org, The Scoot Shop and Sarus Restaurant.

We caught up to Levi and managed to sneak in a few questions before his nightly performance in "Million Dollar Quartet".

Being an openly gay musician in 2009, do you still find yourself pigeon-holed into being labeled a "gay artist" and if so, does that bother you? I certainly wouldn't mind that label, and have worn it proudly in the past, but it seems to be fading a bit. I'm seeing a shift towards being called an "inspirational" artist. I like that. My goal has always been, even from the time I was a traveling kid evangelist at 12 years old, to make music that spoke for everyone and whose purpose was to heal. Either label is great, but I hope that at the end of my career I'm known for making music that heals.

You've been compared to Jerry Lee Lewis and Harry Connick, Jr. among others. Would you agree with that? You just named two of my favorite artists whose scope of influence I doubt I even recognize. Playing the role of Jerry Lee Lewis for the last year in the new rock and rock musical "Million Dollar Quartet" has impacted my own endeavors in ways I would not have expected. Beginning the writing process for my new album "Where I Belong", I found myself so easily drawn back to my roots. Southern soul, gospel, and piano players like Jerry Lee were there for me to cut my teeth on from the start. I like to think that there are traces of that on this new album. I'm very excited about this new release by the way, and feel like I have finally defined myself stylistically more than ever before.

How would you define your "style". I'm getting the terms "Americana Pop", and "Southern Soul". I'm well aware that while my history in gospel music is rich, my sensibilities as a songwriter are that of a pop song formula. I was telling my husband last night that I do believe that somewhere between my album "The Gospel According To Levi" and this new album I made the shift from songwriter to artist. I say that because after 3 years on the road, I've learned what my specific style of piano playing sounds like, what my specific vocal interpretation is, and how to surround myself and my piano with simple, supportive sounds that don't distract from the core of who I am. It was my personal revelation as an artist producing this album. It really taught me a lot about where my stylistic strengths are and how to capitalize on them from an aural standpoint. For the first time I can say that this album is undeniably who I really am at this point in time.

In your own thoughts: Who is Levi? Levi is a mess of contradictions. (laughs) Levi is a double Scorpio who is stubborn, relentless, and maybe the most ambitious man you'll ever meet. I will NOT take no for an answer. At the same time, I think Levi has only wanted to know one thing, how to see common truths running throughout all of our

diverse life experiences. I also think Levi is someone who should not talk about himself in the third person. (laughs) I am a very sexual being. I am fiercely loyal. I am slow to trust, but will pour everything into you once I've opened my heart to you. Most of all, my hope is to master the following. In life, there is always negative or positive to see. Both are always available to us in abundance. I hope I continue to become the person that can always see every situation as something to celebrate.

Tell us about the show you're in? How long is it running? Lord. Too long. (laughs) No, I love this musical and it has afforded me so many wonderful opportunities to broaden my audience. I was there from the beginning, workshopping the piece and helping to create what the role of Jerry Lee Lewis was to become. It feels like a baby of mine. Chicago was the official national launch, and while I can't confirm nor deny, there is very serious talk about London being our next destination. If readers want to get an exciting, colorful idea about what the experience of "Million Dollar Quartet" is all about, www.milliondollarquartetlive.com is a really great site.

What drew you to this production? I love this question. My favorite thing about friends of mine that see me in this production is the first thing that comes out of their mouth after the show. "Levi, I had NO idea you could play the piano like that!". I love having an outlet to tear the keyboard up. I think that is one reason why my first album "One of The Ones", while still the most popular album of mine providing me with consistent sales worldwide, bored me. It didn't let me go crazy. It was beautiful, heartfelt, and from the thousands of emails I've received spoke well of the listeners life experiences, but sometimes you just wanna frackin' rock out. (Yes, I did say Frackin', and I will miss "Battlestar Galactica" very much.) Ya know, this musical is an endearing, uninvolved book full of intriguing information about the interrelationships between Elvis, Jerry Lee, Cash, and Carl Perkins, but at the end of the day, it's simple: it's a rockin' good time. And that, my friends, is a nice escape for someone who can sometimes be rife with import. (laughs)

Are you anxious to get on the road to promote the new CD? I wish I was going to tour more exhaustively with this new release, but I will continue doing both "Million Dollar Quartet" through August while peppering some Pride appearances here and there. My team and I are forced to focus more on media exposure than live this time around since I'm committed to the show in Chicago, and to be honest with you, it could be another 2 years before I brave another 300 city tour. In the meantime, 8 shows a week plus 30 hours a week on my own music is enough for anyone to keep up with. I am certainly not complaining. I'm sure the ridiculous pace keeps me out of trouble. No, seriously, I feel so blessed during a time that is undeniably hard for all of us.

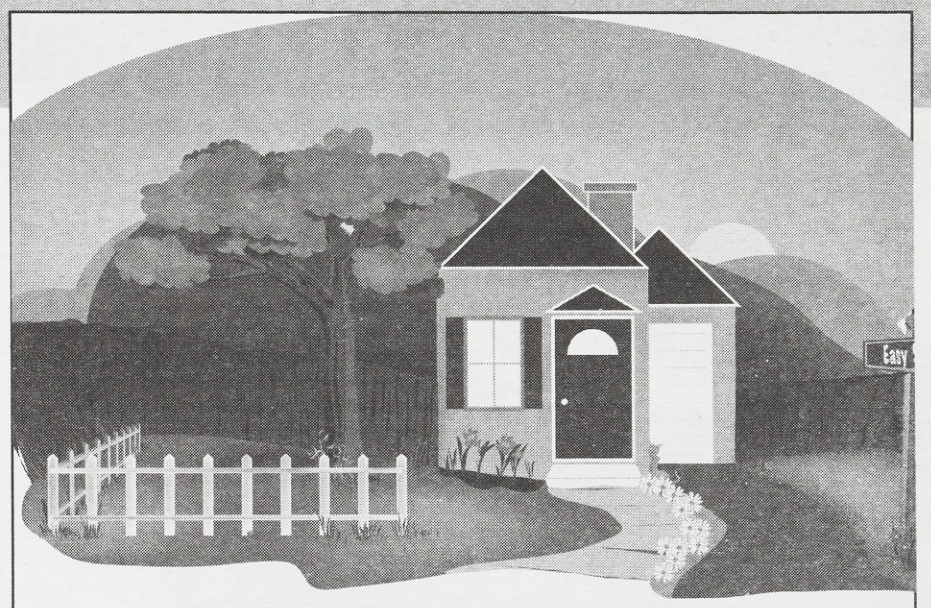
What are you up to after the show finishes? I would like to say that I will take one week vacation and hit the road for a year, but I bet I'm going to have to recoup for a little while. However, this is great as it is giving me time to gel with a new band that I absolutely love. The more prides we do, the more we grab a rehearsal together, the more of a musical family we become. By the time I'm ready to tour again, I have no doubt we will be a well oiled machine ready to present a show that represents the best moments of all my album releases, and in a fresh, unique way. I can't wait for fans to get to know each one of them by name, and anticipate seeing them at my live shows. By the way, if you want to get the first look at them, go to my website and check out the performance video clip.

What's the scoop on the Southern Baptist Sissies Movie (if there is one)? As you may know, Del Shores has been very busy with Sordid Lives and is gearing up for a second season. "Southern Baptist Sissies" the movie is still on the table, but finding the time to do is has been the issue. This is why Del and I agreed to finally make the theme song we wrote, "Stained Glass Window" available on my new CD. So many people have asked for that song, and we are really excited to finally have it recorded. I think it really enhances the experience of the CD.

Tell us about this CD? I can't really answer this question without stepping back to "The Gospel According To Levi". "The Gospel..." was such a load off my chest; confronting my history in the ex-gay ministry, rejection from the church, etc. And while I intended to promote religious diversity through the lyrics of this body of work, there was still a confrontational nature to the album. Since then I've had the chance to meticulously comb through my past and exercise forgiveness to a degree I hadn't before. I feel freer than ever because of that. I also feel so unapologetically me that the past does not matter anymore. This is why I wanted to create a body of work that carried my own personal sense of freedom, forgiveness, and exuberance. Surrendering what we don't understand, and seeing the positive angle to life.

Is there one song that stands out above the rest on this CD? If so, Why? Absolutely. The first song. "Gonna Be Alright". I still listen to this song to remind myself of the darkest times in my life and how they seem to pan out somehow. Resolve may not come how we want it. It may not be in the time frame we want it, but things always unfold, I believe, in a way that is for our highest and best good. And I believe that is the nature of God, to give us only what is for our highest and best good. Being able to see that sometimes is a difficult task, but I'm finding the older I get, it's always there to behold.

What separates this CD from your previous works? Forgiveness, Freedom, and unshakable faith. I believe that each of us are a unique expression of God, and the world needs our unique contribution if they are to see the full picture of God. So let your God-light shine! And my sincerest of thanks to MGW and it's readers for always being so lovingly supportive of my endeavors. Peace and Blessings!



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Melody Gardot - - - My One and Only Thrill



With her debut album Worrisome Heart, Melody Gardot displayed her instinctive gift for transforming the traditions of jazz and blues with "her personal kiss of life." But even her most ardent admirers will be amazed at the giant creative leap forward she has taken with the follow-up, My One And Only Thrill. Mixing Latin rhythms, finger-snapping blues and deep, smoldering torch songs, it's an album that seems to have been shaped from several lifetimes of love, loss and longing. Though she's still only in her early twenties, the rapturous reception accorded to Worrisome Heart by fans and critics meant that she suddenly found her life moving at triple speed, as Melody and her band bounced between gigs, hotels and airports as demand blossomed across several continents.

"We were touring for nine months, though sometimes I'd have a week off if I was lucky," she explains, in between bites of sushi. "But in reality, I never really had time 'off' because I was making the new record in between touring. That process was daunting, but beautiful too, because it gave me the opportunity to work and think, and work and think again, so I could reflect back rather than having to make constant snap decisions. It was an interesting way to approach making a record."

Despite her exacting schedule, she made sure that her plans for My One And Only Thrill had been painstakingly laid.

"We walked into the studio with all the songs written, which was important because you need to have a good idea about how the record's going to be. You need to have an idea, work it up with the musicians and get the rhythm tracks right. Then you can decide which songs need strings and which ones can live without them. It's a process of stripping down what you're doing to make room for something else -- essentially dividing it in half to make room for the orchestra."

This meant that members of her band – take a bow Ken Pendergast (bass), Patrick Hughes (trumpet) and Bryan Rogers (sax) -- often had to play with even more restraint than usual, though thanks to the rapport they've built up during months of performing together, she wouldn't want to go into the studio without them.

"It was as if someone was saying to them 'you could play all this stuff, but I want you to do absolutely nothing!'" she says, laughing. "Yet it was perfect because these are all my guys, and that makes the record special. I think what makes a record great is to have people around you who are instinctively in your head-space and know what you need for those tunes. These guys have played with me long enough to know that without even thinking."

Under the helmsmanship of producer Larry Klein (fresh from his Grammy®-winning work with Herbie Hancock on River: The Joni Letters and a collaborator with such artists as Don Henley, Peter Gabriel and Steely Dan's Walter Becker), the subtle empathy that the musicians bring to their live performances is recreated on the album. Another of the disc's secret weapons is the addition of Vince Mendoza's orchestral arrangements. As well as being a solo artist and composer, the Connecticut-born Mendoza has excelled himself in collaborations with such musical thoroughbreds as Al Di Meola, Joni Mitchell, Kyle Eastwood and Joe Zawinul, and he even wrote arrangements for Robbie Williams' album Swing When You're Winning. On Melody's album, his arrangements run the gamut from sleek, skipping Brazilian rhythms to slow, brooding dramas. One obvious highlight is "Our Love Is Easy," a steamy epic of forbidden love in which Melody's sensual vocal rides over Mendoza's painfully intense string arrangement. Echoes of Peggy Lee or Frank Sinatra in his "Only The Lonely" period are probably no accident.

"We were recording at Capitol and Vince was saying 'if you don't start writing happier tunes you're never going to have a career,'" chortles Melody. "He was joking! In a way though, it was ironic because the lyrical sentiment of "Our Love Is Easy" sounds like everything is wondrous, yet you hear the arrangement and it echoes the sentimentality of a funeral procession as the song begins. It has that for very specific reasons, because the song is about a great love and a great love lost. There's a line 'they say the poison vine breeds a finer wine', and that's to say the things that are not necessarily offered to you sometimes offer greater promise. Therein lies the irony, that the love you're talking about is beautiful, but it's laid within the knowledge that it's impossible."

The Mendoza magic has also been liberally sprinkled over the album's title track. It's a haunting ballad which seems to hang in space, held aloft by Melody's delicate piano playing and a shimmering mirage of strings. In mid-song, the orchestra veers off on a dramatic detour, spiralling upwards in a vertiginous swirl of sound reminiscent of one of Bernard Herrmann's Hitchcock soundtracks. Also awash in rich, moody strings is the heartfelt reverie of "Deep Within The Corners Of My Mind," while the elegant bluesiness of "Lover Undercover" (a song which she has already been testing on live audiences) has been constructed over long, legato string phrases.

But there are plenty of changes of mood too. A recurring theme of the disc is Melody's infatuation with the music of South America, especially Brazil.

"I love Brazilian music, it's one of my favorite genres," she enthuses. "…Stan Getz bossa nova years, Getz/Gilberto, Jobim, Caetano Veloso… some amazing music has come from there. I think there is a sentimentality that's very specific to the Brazilian culture itself. The voices are soft and hushed, and the lyricism is dripping with metaphors and poetics."

Melody's Latin leanings are given an outing in "If The Stars Were Mine." Constructed from percussion and acoustic guitar, it's a simple but easy-to-hum tune with lyrics painted in bright tropical colors.

"Yeah, it's got that Brazilian feel. Actually that's a song I wrote as sort of a sweet, tender song for a child. The last verse always kills me, I want to go 'awwwww!' in the middle – 'if the world was mine I'd paint it gold and green, I'd make the oceans orange for a brilliant color scheme, I'd color all the mountains make the sky forever blue, so the world would be a painting and I'd live inside with you'. It's incredibly sweet!"

Echoes of childhood recur in her version of "Over The Rainbow," a song which has been recorded by many artists but never in Gardot's singular Latin-flavored style. She attributes her rediscovery of the piece to having spent a lot of time with her grandmother, who used to look after her while her single mother went out to work.

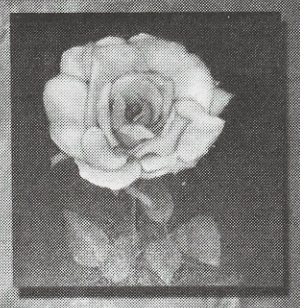
"She was a sweetheart, a really good woman, and apparently one of the only people in my family that I look like. Anyway, when I was little my grandmother made me watch The Wizard Of Oz countless times. One day years later I sat down to write and I came across these chords, and I realised it wasn't a song I was going to write but a song that had already been written: "Over The Rainbow."

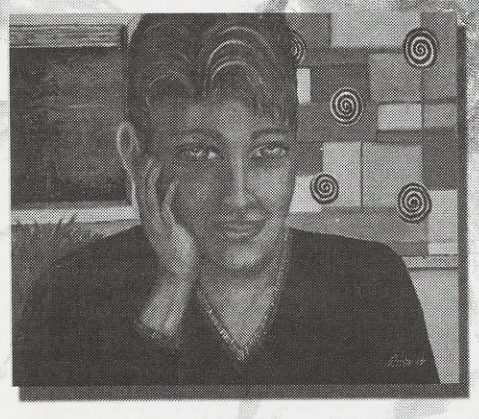
In the mysterious way that songwriters have, Melody merged her memories of the song with her passion for Brazilian music, and the results are as refreshing as they're unexpected. Mendoza's sunny, supple arrangement perfectly complements her deliciously relaxed vocal, blowing the cobwebs off the much-loved tune to create a 21st century classic. "If you're going to do a cover version you have to do something different with it," Melody muses, "otherwise it's like 'why bother?'

A year ago, much of the discussion about Melody Gardot centred on the way she'd recovered from a terrible road accident and had used music as a therapeutic lifeline. But with My One And Only Thrill, the topics of conversation will be her musicianship, her songwriting and her astonishing artistic growth. Ladies and gents, a star is born.

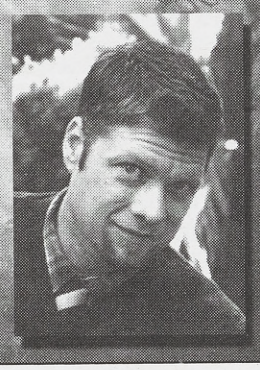
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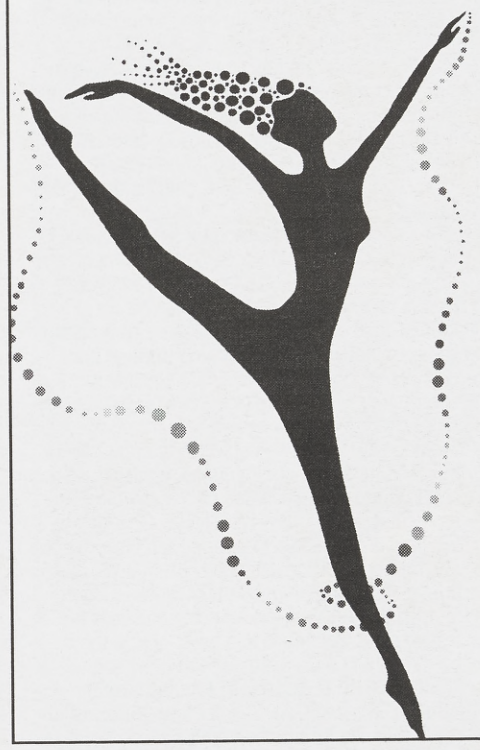


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The Highest Call: The Stage Is Set

So here's this guy riding on a donkey into the city on Main Street. Hundreds of people have lined the streets to greet him, to honor him. They are screaming his name, squeezing past bodies just to get a glimpse, or maybe if they're lucky a touch. His body guards are trying to hold back the crowds. At that moment, he realizes he has rock star status. He has finally arrived. Ironically this is not the beginning of fame and fortune but the opening segue to his death. Sound familiar? This is a 2009 description of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem just before Passover and his death. Many religious denominations call this day, Palm Sunday.

As I prepared my sermon for Palm Sunday, I was struck by the magnitude of that moment, and how any one of us would have been enamored by such adoration and fame. I imagine Jesus' mental state as he approached the city, recalling the lives that were changed as a result of his acts of faith and miraculous healings. I can see Jesus scanning the onlookers for familiar faces. Randomly making eye contact with his "homeboys", the disciples, reminiscing on the many hours spent together, sharing meals, stories, and lessons learned. Lulled by the warmth of the moment, tempted, he says … "Hey God look at the people they seem to have gotten the message. Maybe we can forgo this death and resurrection phase of the agreement. Maybe it was enough for the people to see the miracles and hear the testimonies. God made into flesh — now they believe in you. This is an awesome experience."

Then Jesus is reminded of the agreement between him and God. Jesus agreed to come to earth to live as a human for the purpose of modeling God's love. Jesus came to help us see beyond the legalism of religion embracing the spirit of God's plan for humankind to live an abundant life. He chose to live as a man, grounded, limited, and finite. His mission was to model a type of faith that would help us supersede our earthly limitation and reach for the impossible. Jesus taught us metaphysical principles that allow human's to control their own outcomes. In one lesson he taught that humans have the ability to change the circumstances around them just by believing and articulating the desired outcome. Jesus modeled the pairing of sacrifice with the concept of gain. But now as a human, temptations arise; he's tempted to avoid the pain, to remain in his comfort zone, to cruise through life enjoying the fame he's acquired, the love of the people, and the devotion of his disciples.

But the stage has been set. The script for this portion of his life has been written. It is time to complete the mission — to follow through with the call. No matter what he does — he can't change the direction. He is now on the path to his death. Beyond the accolades of the people during his procession into Jerusalem, when he looks back on the events of the past week he can see his approval rating dropping; He can hear the murmuring of those in power who would decide his fate; He can feel the stress and strain of his physical body. Even though he loves his disciples he really can't rely on them to help him through this pain. They can't even stay up all night to pray with him in his final hours. No matter what he says they can't hear him. He tries to warn them of his demise but they don't understand. He's the only one that can fulfill the mission … this is his calling.

He reaches for the only tools in his arsenal to keep going, affirmations! He knows he has the ability to verbalize his desired outcome and it will happen. He will become what he speaks. He will have what he says. So he recollects the promises God shared with him about his future and his purpose. He recants them to himself out loud and to his disciples … "I am the way the truth and the light — no one can come to the father except through me. I am the light of the world."

He has to encourage himself. He has to keep going. Despite the pain, despite the embarrassment, despite the rejection, despite the loss, he has to keep going! There's a promise of resurrection on the other side. New life, new love, new joy, new peace, if he can just make it through this moment he will experience the abundant life.

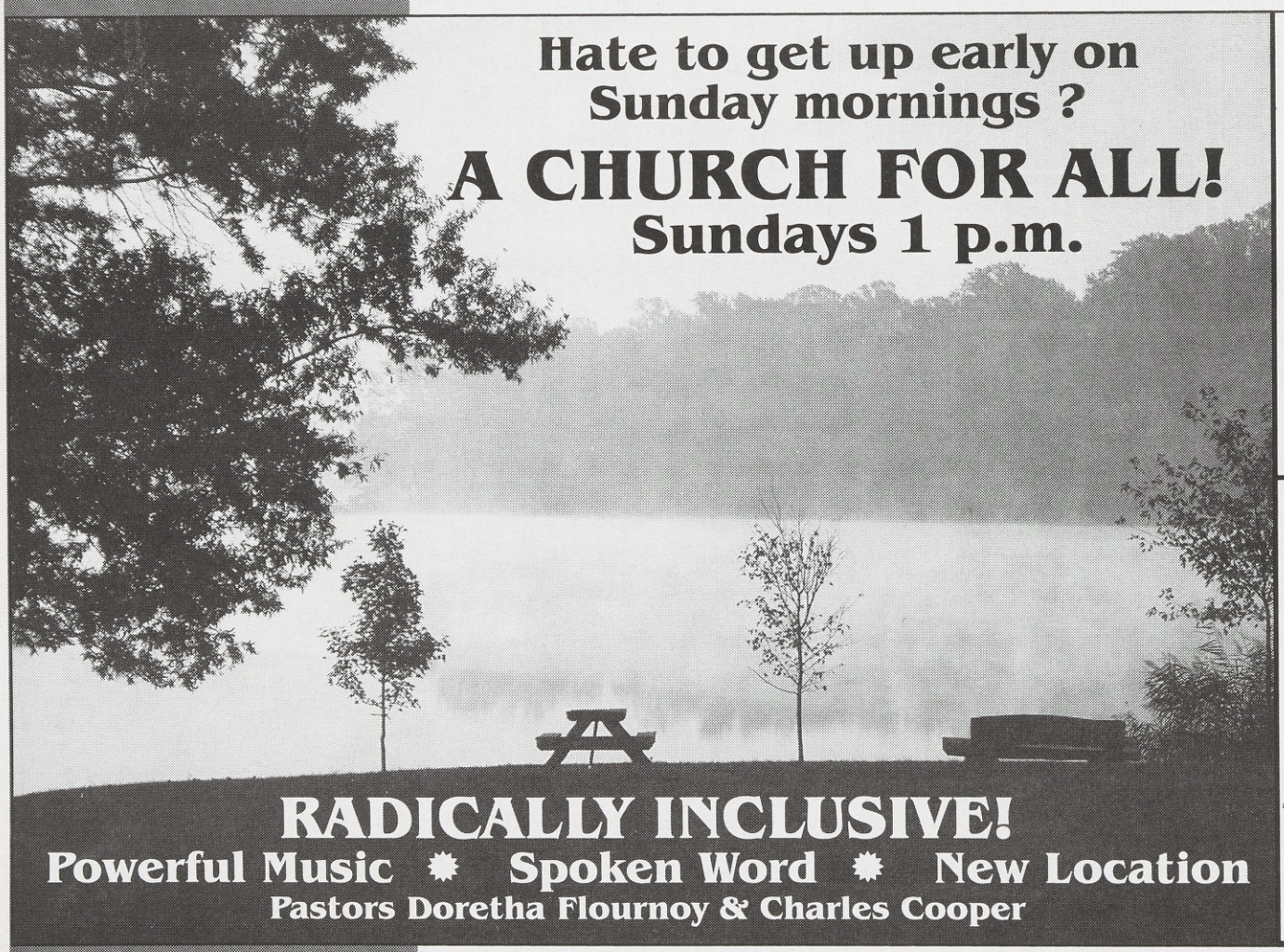
I could not resist the urge to draw an analogy between Jesus' struggle and the current struggle we are all experiencing today. Our stage has been set and the script has been written. Some of us can see the threads which held our lives together unraveling. With little or no control we watch our lives change. We live in fear, grasping at any and every opportunity to alleviate the pain.

Like Jesus, we too have a mission for our lives. We are on the path. This place, this experience is a part of that plan. The way seems difficult and bleak. The idea of facing the next stage is too much … But like Jesus, there is a plan for us, a greater outcome. If we utilize our faith, push through this moment, gather our tools, remember the promises, and repeat them to any one who will listen, we will also see our resurrection.

We will walk through this; and as we walk, we will find energy and endurance. Before, we felt as if we would faint under the pressure. But now as we press forward, we will find patience and peace. Eventually we will take flight and soar like eagles. Wings outstretched, floating on the wind, we will soar above our problems. We will see the big picture. Encouraged that this path will end, we will see the finish line.

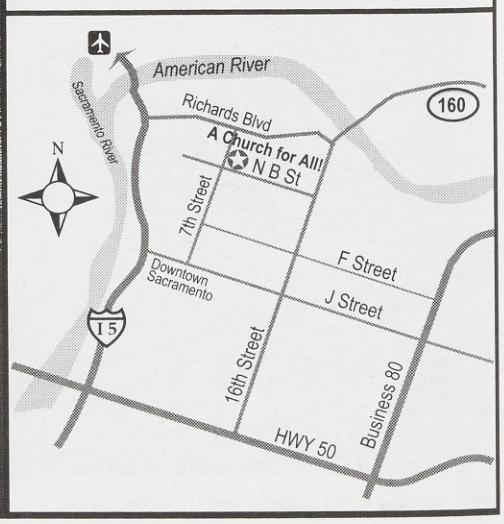
The promise is ours.

Keep the faith.



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I keep meeting people who say that human-induced global warming is only theory, that just as many scientists doubt it as believe it. Can you settle the score?

So-called "global warming skeptics" are indeed getting more vocal than ever, and banding together to show their solidarity against the scientific consensus that has concluded that global warming is caused by emissions from human activities.

Upwards of 800 skeptics (most of whom are not scientists) took part in the second annual International Conference on Climate Change—sponsored by the Heartland Institute, a conservative think tank—in March 2009. Keynote speaker and Massachusetts Institute of Technology meteorologist Richard Lindzen told the gathering that "there is no substantive basis for predictions of sizeable global warming due to observed increases in minor greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons."

Most skeptics attribute global warming—few if any doubt any longer that the warming itself is occurring, given the worldwide rise in surface temperature—to natural cycles, not emissions from power plants, automobiles and other human activity. "The observational evidence…suggests that any warming from the growth of greenhouse gases is likely to be minor, difficult to detect above the natural fluctuations of the climate, and therefore inconsequential," says atmospheric physicist Fred Singer, an outspoken global warming skeptic and founder of the advocacy-oriented Science and Environmental Policy Project.

But green leaders maintain that even if some warming is consistent with millennial cycles, something is triggering the current change. According to the nonprofit Environmental Defense, some possible (natural) explanations include increased output from the sun, increased absorption of the sun's heat due to a change in the Earth's reflectivity, or a change in the internal climate system that transfers heat to the atmosphere.

But scientists have not been able to validate any such reasons for the current warming trend, despite exhaustive efforts. And a raft of recent peer reviewed studies—many which take advantage of new satellite data—back up the claim that it is emissions from tailpipes, smokestacks (and now factory farmed food animals, which release methane) that are causing potentially irreparable damage to the environment.

To wit, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences declared in 2005 that "greenhouse gases are accumulating in Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures to rise," adding that "the scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action." Other leading U.S. scientific bodies, including the American Meteorological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Geophysical Union have issued concurring statements—placing the blame squarely on humans' shoulders.

Also, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a group of 600 leading climate scientists from 40 nations, says it is "very likely" (more than a 90 percent chance) that humans are causing a global temperature change that will reach between 3.2 and 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century.

CONTACTS: Heartland Institute, www.heartland.org; Science and Environmental Policy Project, www.sepp.org; U.S. National Academy of Sciences, www.nas.edu; IPCC, www.ipcc.ch.

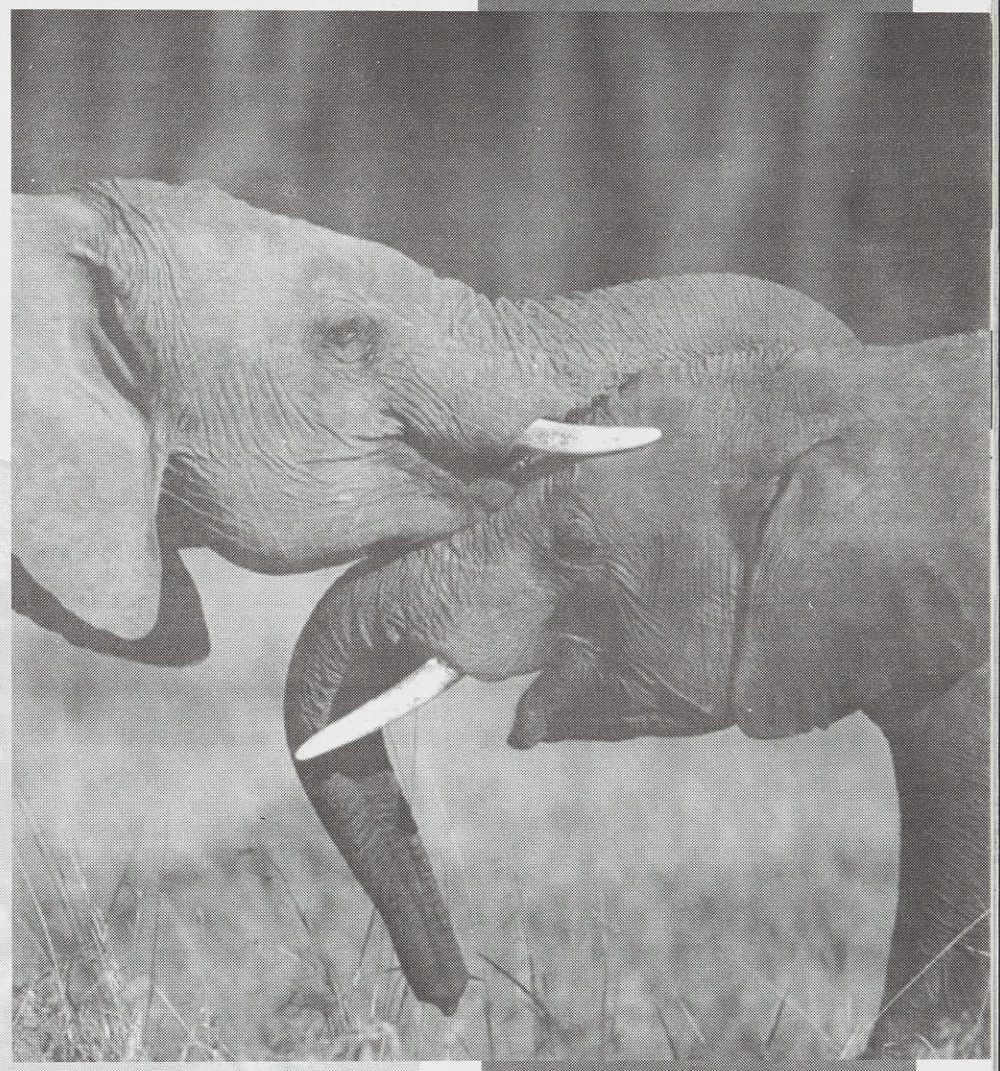
Are elephant populations stable these days?

Far from it. The double whammy of poaching (illegal hunting) and habitat loss has led to a dramatic decline in populations of both African and Asian elephants in recent decades. In 1930, there were between five and 10 million wild African elephants, plying the entire African continent in large bands. Just 60 years later, when they were added to the international list of critically endangered species, only about 600,000 were scattered across a few African countries. Today that number is likely less than 500,000.

While Asian elephants were never as numerous as their African counterparts, their population numbers have also dropped precipitously, from an estimated 200,000 a century ago to less than 40,000 today. Conservationists fear that unless demand dries up for ivory, and people stop moving into prime elephant habitat, the world's largest land mammal could become just a memory within another hundred years.

Putting an end to habitat loss may be next to impossible as more and more people vie for fewer and fewer resources and move out further into the countryside, so conservationists working to save elephants tend to concentrate on reducing or eliminating poaching. While trophy hunting of elephants may have been big decades ago, today most elephant hunters are after the ivory in the tusks, which have been a hot commodity across Asia for years as raw material for highly prized and often ornate carvings. Despite elephants' inclusion in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1990—meaning the sale of tusks and other elephant parts is a violation of international law—poaching is bigger business than ever, with prices for ivory rising more than 16-fold in recent years.

Some countries, such as Tanzania and Kenya, are working hard to hold up their end of the CITES agreement, hiring patrols of young men—some of them former poachers themselves—to monitor local elephant populations and enforce national and international laws against killing these and other endangered species. Conservation groups like the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) are working hand-in-hand with local officials to improve elephant habitat and keep poachers at bay. These organizations hope that the people in these regions can learn how to bring in revenues from tourism instead of hunting.



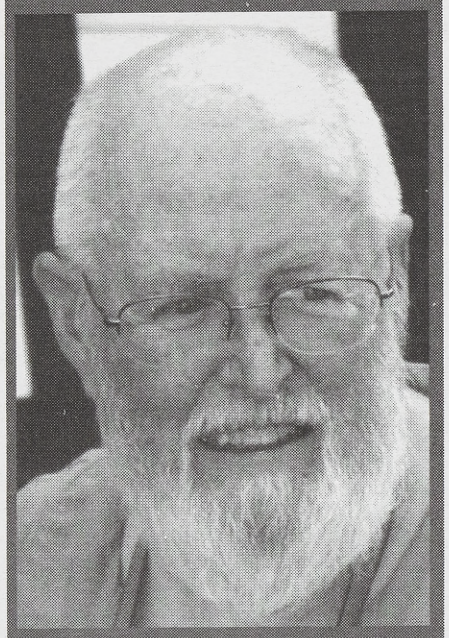
But elsewhere governments are not as committed to the ivory ban, let alone to following laws imposed by outsiders. Government officials in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana, for example, argue that trade in ivory should be regulated, not prohibited. They maintain that countries that are managing their elephants well should be allowed to sell ivory in order to pay for conservation measures.

In part to test such waters, the first legal sale of ivory in a decade took place in October 2008, despite protests from conservationists. Buyers, mostly from China and Japan, eagerly snatched up some 100 tons of stockpiled elephant tusks—no elephants were killed recently or illegally for the sale—with the proceeds going to groups working to save the elephant and its habitat. But with the legal ivory sale has come an uptick in elephant poaching, leaving conservationists with that "one step forward, two steps back" feeling.

CONTACTS: CITES, www.cites.org; AWF, www.awf.org; WCS, www.wcs.org

Earth Talk

EMAGAZINE.COM



BY JERRY SLOAN

Hate Watch

Hooray for Iowa, Vermont and Sweden!!

April brings a triple header for same sex marriage

In a brilliant unanimous decision the seven judges of the Iowa Supreme Court ruled the ban on gay marriage unconstitutional and ordered the state government to start issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples.

The Democratic controlled Vermont Legislature became the second in the nation to pass legislation legalizing same sex marriage by boldly overriding the veto of Republican Governor James Douglas thus making it the fourth state to legalize marriage between people of the same gender. Readers will recall the California Legislature twice passed legislation to legalize same sex marriage only to have it vetoed by Governor Schwartzenegger.

"Today Vermont legislators did the right thing by overriding Governor Douglas' veto and granting equal rights to all Vermonters," said Senate President Pro Tem Peter Shumlin in a statement.

And Sweden became the seventh country to make marriage between two people of the same gender legal.

Located in America's heartland surrounded by seven states, Iowa, with no residential requirements for marriage, has the potential of becoming a same sex marriage Mecca. For the most part it is less than an eight hour drive from most mid-west metropolitan areas.

The sixty-nine page opinion written by Justice Mark Cady stated the plaintiffs in the case were ordinary citizens of Iowa who expected to have all the rights granted to every other citizen of Iowa, the only difference in the plaintiffs from their fellow citizens was "They are sexually and romantically attracted to members of their own sex, and "Each maintains a hope of getting married one day, an aspiration shared by many throughout Iowa."

And it found, "Therefore, with respect to the subject and purposes of Iowa's marriage laws, we find that the plaintiffs are similarly situated compared to heterosexual persons. Plaintiffs are in committed and loving relationships, many raising families, just like heterosexual couples. Moreover, official recognition of their status provides an institutional basis for defining their fundamental relational rights and responsibilities, just as it does for heterosexual couples. Society benefits, for example, from providing same sex couples a stable framework within which to raise their children and the power to make health care and end-of-life decisions for loved ones, just as it does when that framework is provided for opposite-sex couples."

The court also addressed the old canard about marriage being for procreation and the raising of children, "We begin with the County's argument that the goal of the same-sex marriage ban is to ensure children will be raised only in the optimal milieu. In pursuit of this objective, the statutory exclusion of gay and lesbian people is both under-inclusive and over-inclusive. The civil marriage statute is under-inclusive because it does not exclude from marriage other groups of parents — such as child abusers, sexual predators, parents neglecting to provide child support, and violent felons — that are undeniably less than optimal parents. (my emphasis) Such under-inclusion tends to demonstrate that the sexual-orientation-based classification is grounded in prejudice or "overbroad generalizations about the different talents, capacities, or preferences" of gay and lesbian people, rather than having a substantial relationship to some important objective."

The court beautifully addressed the separation of church and state issue concerning marriage noting the issue had not been formally addressed but nonetheless there was a "religious undercurrent" in the whole issue of marriage but "Our constitution does not permit any branch of government to resolve these types of religious debates and entrusts to courts the task of ensuring government avoids them ... Thus, in pursuing our task in this case, we proceed as civil judges, far removed from the theological debate of religious clerics, and focus only on the concept of civil marriage and the state licensing system that identifies a limited class of persons entitled to secular rights and benefits associated with civil marriage ... State government can have no religious views, either directly or indirectly, expressed through its legislation. This proposition is the essence of the separation of church and state." (my emphasis)

It concludes its observations of separation of church and state, "A religious denomination can still define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, and a marriage ceremony performed by a minister, priest, rabbi, or other person ordained or designated as a leader of the person's religious faith does not lose its meaning as a sacrament or other religious institution."

One can only hope the judges of the California Supreme Court read this wonderful decision and have the courage to declare Prop 8 unconstitutional.

Longtime same sex marriage activist Shelly Bailes stated on her Facebook page, "How can the California Supreme Court not vote to repeal Prop 8 when they said "The right to marry is "so integral to an individual's liberty" that it "may not be eliminated or abrogated by the Legislature or by the electorate."

Many talking heads have noted the judges seemed to be reacting very favorably to the argument all power was vested with the people and many questions were directed to Prop 8 counsel Ken Starr who went to great lengths to affirm the power of the people to discriminate.

I personally think the judges were giving Mr. Starr the rope he needed to hang himself with his ridiculous affirmations that indeed the people had the right to discriminate against any group they chose and hopefully we will see him appropriately shot down when their decision is announced.

The Iowa decision brought all the usual howls of anguish from leaders of the Radical Religious Right. Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council lamenting about "activist judges." World Congress of Families Managing Director Larry Jacobs said he was "appalled." Americans for Truth's Peter LaBarbera, "Whenever you see homosexual activists celebrating outside a courtroom, as they were in Des Moines, Iowa this morning, you know it's a bad day for America. The liberal judges in their unchecked arrogance have now imposed counterfeit "same-sex marriage" on the heartland. If the people do not respond in righteous anger coupled with effective action, the downfall of our beloved nation is assured — because God (who invented marriage) is not mocked."

The Iowa decision was particularly heartwarming to this writer as it was just about this time 34 short years ago in my capacity as pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Des Moines I led the very first delegation of gay people to ever have a meeting with the governor of Iowa.

In 1975 there was no organized glbt community in Iowa and the state legislature was in the process of revising the state criminal code and we wanted to make sure the sodomy laws were dropped from the criminal codes.

So all in all Iowa has come a long way in a short time.

Now for an update on some things going on outside our borders.

The first week of April brought disturbing news of six gay men being murdered in Bagdad by either the police or religious hit squads and a café where some gays gathered to socialize was torched. It is reported all of the young men were disowned by their families and were set up by their families to be killed.

From Uganda, there are still reverberations from the anti-gay conference held in Kampala the first week of March where three American anti-gay activists, holocaust revisionist, Watchmen on the Walls co-founder and former Sacramentan Scott Lively, Exodus International board member Don Schmierer, Caleb Lee Brundidge of Richard Cohen's International Healing Foundation and the Phoenix-based Extreme Prophetic ministries, stirred up already vicious anti-gay Ugandan sentiment and now there are calls for the mass arrest of glbt people. Sentiment was further heightened by a press conference held by the Family Life Network of Uganda when a former "flamboyant" drag queen named Georgina now claims to be delivered from homosexuality and stated he had been trained and paid by foreign gay activist to recruit Ugandan schoolchildren into homosexuality. Meantime gay outings continue to appear in a national newspaper, the Red Pepper.

In Nigeria anti-gay hysteria continues as a new law is working its way through the national legislature. The Human Rights Watch explains, "The bill is entitled "Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act 2006," but goes much further: it would attack all lesbian and gay individuals, families and human rights. The bill would provide for five years' imprisonment to anyone who "goes through the ceremony of marriage with a person of the same sex," "performs, witnesses, aids or abets the ceremony of same sex marriage" or "is involved in the registration of gay clubs, societies and organizations, sustenance, procession or meetings, publicity and public show of same sex amorous relationship directly or indirectly in public and in private." Any priest or cleric aiding or abetting such a union could be subject to the five-year prison term. The law would also prohibit adoption of children by lesbian or gay couples or individuals."

Nigerian Anglican Bishop of Uyo, Rt. Rev. Isaac Orama said, "Homosexuality and lesbianism are inhuman. Those who practice them are insane, satanic and are not fit to live because they are rebels to God's purpose for man,"

Worldwide we are still in a struggle for freedom and it is time put the word "Freedom" back into the Sacramento Pride Festival.

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GAYSACRAMENO.ORG IS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE, INTERACTIVE INFORMATION AND RESOURCE HUB FOR LGBT SACRAMENTO.

THE SITE OFFERS A SPRING BOARD TO ALL OTHER LGBT WEBSITES IN SACRAMENTO AND KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED ON THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS AND WHERE TO FIND THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES THEY NEED.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MGW MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSPAPER

LavenderLibrary

ACTIVISM

Equality Action NOW, a Sacramento based grassroots organization dedicated to mobilizing concerned citizens to promote equality for all. Formed in the wake of Prop. 8 the group works to see that LGBT voices and concerns are represented in the larger community. 916.446.1082, equalityactionnow.org

BARS

Badlands Dance Bar: Mon - Sat 4pm to 2am, Sun 2pm to 2am, 2003 K St., 916.448.8790, sacbadlands.com

BoJangles: 18+, 1119 21st St. (Moving Next To Headhunters Soon)

Bolt Bar: Leather/Cowboy/Bear, Open 5pm-2am Mon - Fri, 2pm-2am Sat and Sun, 2560 Boxwood St., sacbolt.com

Club 21: 1119 21st St.

Depot Video Bar: 2001 K St., 916-441-6823, Mon - Fri 4pm - 2am, Sat and Sun 2pm - 2am, thedepot.net

FACES Nightclub: 2000 K St., 916-448-7798, faces.net

Mercantile Saloon: 1928 L St., 916.447-0792

Headhunters/ROK: Restaurant, Bar Service until 2am, 1930 K Street, headhuntersonk.com

BUSINESS

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: Business association promoting networking within the gay and lesbian business community and its supporters. rainbowchamber.com

Valley Rainbow Pages: A directory of GLBT-owned and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Greater Sacramento Valley. vrp.info

FAMILY

Camp it Up: (August 3-10) A family camp known for one-of-a-kind gay family vacations, we respect and celebrate all unique families. www.campitup.org

Camp Lavender Hill: A week-long summer camp for children, ages 9-14, of LGBT families. (2008 camp date has passed). camplavenderhill.org

Lesbian Families: A forum for Lesbian couples with children. geocities.com/lesbianfamilies/index.html

Sacramento PFLAG: Promotes health and well-being of LGBT persons, families and friends. Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. 916-978-0410, pflagsacramento.org

FESTIVALS

Sacramento Pride: (June) Annual Pride celebration for Sacramento, hosted by the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian center. sacramentopride.org

Rainbow Festival: (Aug. 29 - 31, 2008) Annual LGBT street faire over Labor Day Weekend. Rainbow Festival is Run by CGNIE and takes place at 20th & K Sts. rainbowfestival.com

Sac. International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: (Oct. 9-11, 2008) Annual LGBT film festival takes place over 5 days. siglff.org

Sac. Earth Day: Annual Festival coordinated by Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), 909 12th Street, Suite 100, 916-444-0022, sacramentoearthday.net

GALLERIES

Crocker Art Museum: The longest continuously operating art museum in the West founded 1885. crockerartmuseum.org

Kennedy Gallery: 2110 K St. Tues.-Sat. Noon to 6pm and by Appointment. mmkgallery.com

HIV | AIDS

Anonymous HIV Testing Services: Harm reduction Services, 3647 40th St., Wednesdays 8am - 5pm; Appointments are

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required for testing. 916-875-6022
Breaking Barriers: Provides a wide range of services for people living with HIV. 2200 21st St., 916-447-2437, breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Capital City AIDS Fund: Raises money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sac. area. CCAF's activities include Oscar® Night (Feb. 2010), NorCal AIDS Challenge (May 14-17, 2009), and Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk (Sept., 2009). capcityaidsfund.org

CARES: HIV/AIDS health clinic, outreach, education and prevention. Free, rapid HIV testing M-F 9 am to 5 pm. 1500 21st St., 916-443-3299, caresclinic.org

Golden Rule Services: A minority based organization that resolves health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities in People of Color communities through culturally competent programs and resources. 4433 Florin Road, Suite 760. 916-427-GOLD, goldenrules.info

NorCal AIDS Challenge: (May 15-18, 2009) A 4-day, 330 mile bike ride to raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS norcalaidschallenge.net

Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk: Sept. 14, 2008. 916-448-1110, sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

Sac. Valley Pozabilities: HIV+ social group. sacvalleypozabilities@yahoo.com, PO Box 161871, Sacramento, CA 95816-1871

Sierra Hope: Provides support for people with HIV & AIDS. Sierra HOPE, 1168 Booster Way, P.O. Box 159, Angels Camp, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, sierrahope.org

Sunburst Projects: Providing support to families with children who are living with HIV/AIDS. 1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, 916-440-0889, sunburstprojects.org

IMPERIAL COURT

Court Of The Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE): Parent organization for Sacramento's Court, La Kish Hayworth Memorial Fund, Fairy Godfathers' Fund and Rainbow Festival. myspace.com/cgnie

LAW | POLITICS

California Communities United Institute promotes the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal. calcomui.org

SAC Legal: Association of attorneys, legal professionals, and legislative advocates, affiliated with the Sacramento County Bar Assoc. that promotes equality the LGBT community. saclegal.org

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC): A non-partisan, political action committee formed to provide a voice for the LGBT community in the political process. cappac.net

Green Party of Sacramento County: P.O. Box 2082, Sacramento, CA 95812, 916-484-4000, sacgreens.org

Libertarian Party of Sac.:
P.O. Box 3003, Orangevale, CA 95662, lpsacramento.com

Log Cabin Republicans:
logcabin.org/logcabinca/sacramento_chapter.html

Stonewall Democrats of Sac.: Helping elect qualified, openly LGBT people and Democratic candidates who support equal rights for LGBT. P O Box 161623 Sacramento, CA 95816-1623, 916-441-1787, sacstonewall.org

NEW MEDIA

Being Gay Today: Sacramento's oldest, still-running GLBT TV show. Comcast Cable. Access Sac, channel 17. Thurs. 10pm, Now on myspace and youtube. beinggaytoday.com

Checkered Nation Video Show: A gay-focused internet chat show in and around Sacramento. checkerednation.com

Transponder Radio: Internet radio show covering many transgender issues. transponder.com

PERFORMANCE

A Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble: Women, under the direction of Sage Brown, dedicated to performing music with a message. smalldifference.org

Sac. Gay Men's Chorus: Produces up to three concerts a year, and performs throughout the year at events in and around Sacramento. sgmchorus.org

Sacramento DanceSport: The Largest Same-Sex Dance Program in the United States. Classes, performances and competition. sacdancesport.com

True Colors Women's Chorus: Women building a community through their love of music. 877-758-7827, truecolorschorus.org

RELIGION

A Church For All: Fosters an all encompassing spiritual community. 721 North B Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2073, 916-502-5603, spirit@achurchforall.org. achurchforall.org

Atheists and Other Freethinkers: Promoting the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community. aofonline.org

Atonement Lutheran: Welcomes all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender, or sexual orientation. at-one.org

Grove of the Oak: An eclectic group of Druids, Wiccans, and other Pagans who gather twice a month and on the eight annual Celtic seasonal festivals, to share community, perform ritual, create magic, and support each other in our chosen earth-honoring pagan paths. groveoftheoak.org

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer: LGBT affirming and supports the Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries. lcorsac.org

Pioneer Congregational Church: LGBT open and affirming. 2700 L Street, 916-443-3727, uccwebsites.net/pioneercongsacramentoca.html

St. Mark's United Methodist Church: A Christian community welcoming a diverse congregation. stmarksumc.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: A Christian community that embraces one and all to worship together at God's table. 1430 J Street, 916.446.2620, stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: LGBT affirming. Christian worship, life and ministry. 2620 Capitol Ave., 916-446-2513, trinitycathedral.org

Valley Ministries: Existing to communicate God's love and accept all people. 4118 Coronado Ave, Stockton. 209-464-5244, valleyministries.com

Westminster Church Sacramento: A community of faith accepting all people solely on the basis of their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ. westminsac.org

RESOURCES

GaySacramento.org: Interactive online resource for LGBT Sac. news, events and community resources. gaysacramento.org

Lavender Library: Serves the LGBT community as a lending library and archives as well as houses LGBT activities. Loans books, periodicals, DVDs (general and erotica), to members. lavenderlibrary.org

outsacramento.com: Internet links, photos, message board and news for LGBT Sacramento. outsacramento.com

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center: Serving the LGBT of Greater Sacramento and surrounding counties, providing facilitated discussion groups for LGBT youth and adults, counseling, legal services, HIV prevention and education services and programs for LGBT seniors, families and people living with HIV/AIDS. saccenter.org

SENIORS

Senior Gays: A resource for the senior LGBT and friendly community. SeniorGays.org

SOCIAL GROUPS

Capital City Squares: A square dance club for LGBT people who want to learn and enjoy Modern Western Square Dancing. iagsdc.org/capitalcity

Males Au Naturel Sacramento (MANS) - A gay/bi male naturist organization for men who enjoy social naturism in positive. groups.yahoo.com/group/malesaunaturelsacramento
Natomas LGBTQ: A group to connect Natomas area queers for in-person social activities. An alternative to the bar scene. natomaslgbtq.wordpress.com
Sac Woof Society: A social group for bears and bear lovers. sacwoofsociety.net

Gay Men's Book Group: A literary group for Sac. gay men. Meets once a month (usually 3rd Wednesday). groups.yahoo.com/group/sacgaybookgroup

Pink Pistols - LGBT group with an interest in shooting sports and self defense. pinkpistols.org/local/sacramento

Sacramento Professional Men's Group: Alternative lifestyle men who get together for networking and social gatherings with other professional men. groups.yahoo.com/group/SacramentoProfessionalMensGroup

Sac. Valley Bears: A social and charitable organization for bears and bear admirers. sacvalleybears.org

Sac. Valley Knights: Northern California motorcycle club whose membership consists solely of those who own and ride motorcycles. valleyknights.org

Sac. Valley LeatherCorps: Gay men's and women's organization seeking to educate and mentor members of the Leather/BDSM communities through classes and other club activities. svlclub.org

SPORTS

CHEER Sacramento: Volunteer cheerleading squad now cheering at games for West Sacramento Wolverines. cheersacramento.org

Frontrunners of Sacramento: Social group inclusive of all types, sizes, dispositions, and levels of activities with running and running events as a main focus. frsac.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: Lesbians and gay men who enjoy outdoor adventures and camaraderie. motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls

Gay Sport Bike Riders of Sacramento - Gay sport bike enthusiasts who meet, post rides and related links. Serious enthusiasts 18+ are welcome. autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAC_GSR

River City Bowlers: Gay and Lesbian Bowling league. Winter league runs from Sept..-May and averages 22 teams per season. Summer league lasts 12-13 weeks beginning in June. rivercitybowlers.homestead.com/about.html

Sac. Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA): Sacramento's gay rodeo chapter. capitalcrossroads.org

Sacred City Derby Girls (SCDG): Sacramento Women's Roller Derby team. sacredcityderbygirls.com

THEATRE | FILM

Lambda Players: LGBT theatre company now in its 19th Season. 1028 R Street, 916-444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

24th Street Theatre: Hosts Runaway Stage which does musicals and larger well-known

plays. Facilities for large meetings, lectures, film screenings and performances Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, 916-452-3005, sierra2.org

Capital Stage - Capital Stage, Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.org

Mondavi Center - 530-754-ARTS, One Shields Ave. Davis, mondaviarts.org
Shiny Object: Weekly showings of independent films and Rocky Horror Picture Show. 600 4th St. West Sacramento, shiny-object.com

The Crest Theatre: 1013 K St., 916-44-CREST. Shows independent and GLBT films. Often hosts Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. thecrest.com

TRANS SUPPORT

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center Trans Support: Counseling services available for transgender people. 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. 1927 L St., saccenter.org

Kings of Drag: Performance troupe of women dressing in male drag. kingsofdrag.com

Sac. Gender Alliance: Provides recreational and educational needs of the trans community, their spouses, family members and related professionals. 916-442-0185, Ext. 141, saccenter.org

Sigma Delta Gamma "Sac. Delta Girls": A chapter of Tri-Ess, an educational, social and support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, their spouses or partners and their families. 916-359-2328, geocities.com/Sigma_Delta_Gamma

WOMEN

Adventure Out Women: Business networking, social activities, special events and recreational adventures throughout California year-round. adventureoutwomen.com

Lesbian Cancer Support:Meets third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

Rainbow Womyn (Sac.): Online social group for Womyn. groups.msn.com/RainbowWomynofSacramentoCA

Sac NOW: Feminist news, actions, and opportunities. Meets monthly on the 3rd Thurs., 7pm, at the Hart Senior Center at 915 27th Street (27th & J St.). sacnow.org

Sacto Girls: Lesbian social group for women in the Sacramento and surrounding areas. members.aol.com/sactogirls/index.html

Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club (SOSWMC): A tightknit sisterhood on women motorcycle riders who plan social events and raise funds for various charities. SOSWMC@hotmail.com, soswmc.org

Sac. Area Lesbian Health Resource Guide: A guide to help lesbians in the greater Sac. area identify and obtain services from providers who are sensitive to the needs of lesbian, bi and trans women. saclesbianhealth.com

Single Lesbians of Sac.: A community of single lesbians in the Sac. area interested in meeting other lesbians for the purpose of dating. groups.msn.com/SingleLesbiansofSacramento

Women On Wednesdays: Social discussion/activity group meets each Weds. at the Gay & Lesbian Center, 1927 L St. 7-9pm. Open to lesbian, bi and trans women. saccenter.org

Womyn Over the Rainbow: A group open to lesbian womyn over the age of 40 for the purpose of building friendship. groups.msn.com/WomynOverTheRainbow

YOUTH

CSUS Pride Center: Open to Sac State LGBT students. Lassen Hall 3011, 6000 J Street, 916.278.8720, Email: pride@csus.edu, csus.edu/pride

Delta Lambda Phi: A non-secret, non-hazing, national social fraternity founded by gay men for all men. dlp.org/iota/DLP.htm

Lambda Delta Lambda: Queer-friendly Sisterhood/Sorority social network on campus, accepting of all social identities and backgrounds. ldlucdavis.org/about.htm

Modesto LGBTQ Youth: GLBTQ Youth in Modesto and surrounding areas. myspace.com/lgbtqmodesto

Rainbow Club Of American River College: LGBT students on the American River Campus. geocities.com/arc_glbtqclub

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: Social/Activist group on campus. myspace.com/queerstraightalliance

RESPECT Sacramento: A grassroots organization dedicated to creating safe schools for all sexual minority people in Sacramento area schools. Meets the second Weds. of the month, 6:30pm at Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. 916-733-2135, RespectSacramento.org

Sac Youth Yahoo Group: Forum for LGBT and friendly youth under 21 years old. sacyouth.net groups.yahoo.com/group/sacyouth

City College LGBT Club: 3835 Freeport Boulevard, 916-558-2111 Advisor: Gayle Pitman, Behavioral & Social Sciences, PitmanG@scc.losrios.edu, wserver.scc.losrios.edu/~glbt/index.html

U.C. Davis LGBT Resource Center: Campus Center for LGBT students. 530-752-2452, lgbcenter.ucdavis.edu

REGIONAL

Amador County GLBTQQ Support Group: Amador County Mental Health - call Mary Pulskamp at 209-223-6412

Central Valley Stonewall Democratic Club: Helps elect qualified, openly LGBT people to public office, as well as Democratic Party candidates that support equal rights for the LGBT community. cvstonewall.org

Diversity R Us: Support group for Yuba City-Marysville GLBT. groups.yahoo.com/group/diversityrus

Foothill Lesbians and Gays Social Network (FLAG): An organization for the LGBT community in the Sierra Foothills of No. Cal. flagamador.webs.com

Gaysonoma.com: Online Guide to events, personals, gay businesses, community organizations, classifieds, for Sonoma County LGBT. gaysonoma.com

"If The Shoe Fits": Gay/lesbian organization in the Foothills of El Dorado County that provides social/recreational activities for members. itsfnews.org

Nevada County Pride: Social network of gays and lesbians in western Nevada County in California. nevadacountypride.org

Out In The Mother Lode: Social network for fun/support among the LGBT in the central sierra foothills. outinthemotherlode.org

PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode Chapter: Meets on the third Tuesday of Jan., Apr., July, and Oct., 6:30pm, at the Tuolumne County Library. Other events scheduled through the year. pflagsonora.org

Rainbow Frontier: A website for LGBT adults in rural/frontier areas of Northeastern California funded Plumas County Public Health Agency, 1-800-801-6330 or 530-283-6358, rainbowfrontier.org

Sierra Gay Men's Network: A newsletter & blog with news for Gay Men and their friends in the Sierra Foothills of California. sgmn.org

Sisters of Scota Foothills Chapter: Women's Motorcycle Club who rides mostly in the foothills. soswmcfoothills.org

Solano Pride Center: Support for LGBT of Solano County. Solano Pride Center, 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 203-D, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-427-2356, solanopride.org

Stanislaus Pride Center: Resources and support for LGBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties. stanpride.org

Stonewall Alliance of Chico: Services and support for LGBT people in Chico and surrounding areas. stonewallchico.org

Western Slope Men's Social Group: Online forum for gay/bi men on/near the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada's (between Sac. and So. Lake Tahoe). groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternSlopeMensSocialGroup

Yuba-Sutter Unity: Social, education & community involvement. gayyubasutter.com, groups.yahoo.com/group/Yuba-Sutter-Unity

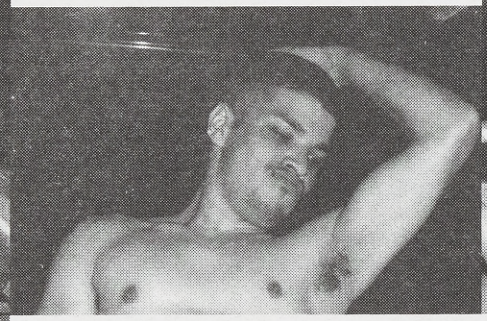
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SUNDAY: NOON - 6PM



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We meet the third Tuesday of each month.
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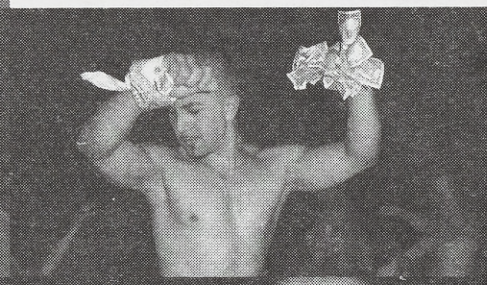
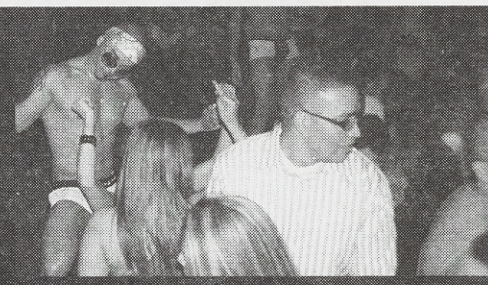
FACES – THE SEASON IS HEATING UP WITH POOL PARTIES AND THEMED DANCE NIGHTS EVERY THURSDAY. WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIPS IT WILL TAKE TO GET THE GOGO DANCERS TO GO HOME WITH US, BUT WE KEEP TRYING! PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. TO SEE MORE PICTURES VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

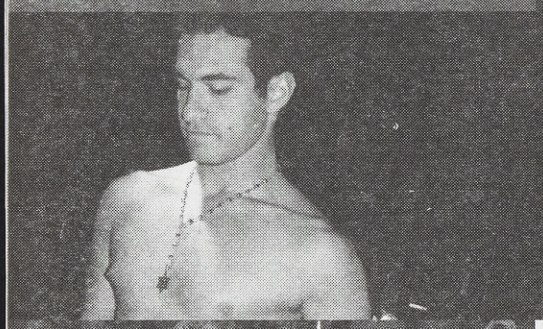
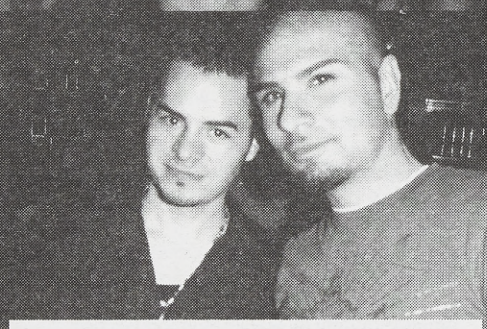
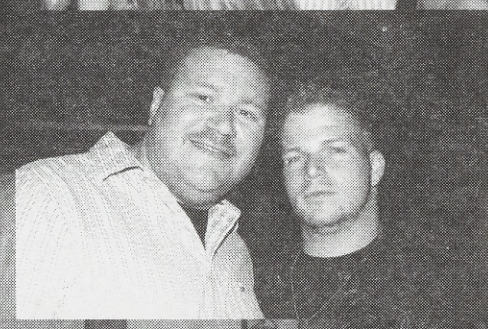








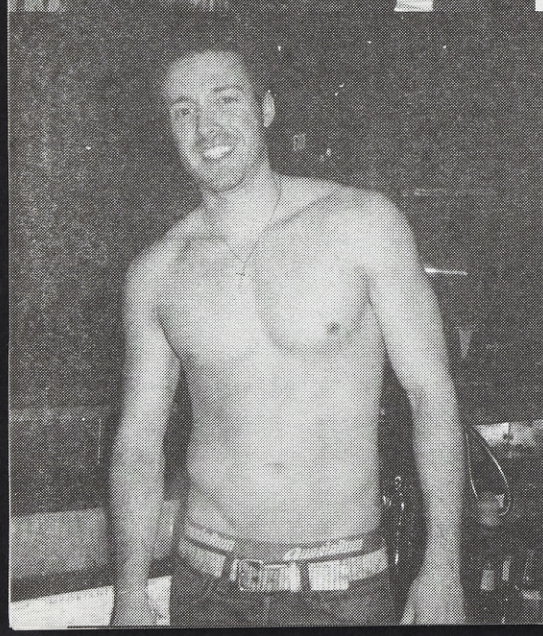







CLUB PAPI – ANOTHER SMASH! CLUB PAPI FRIDAY NIGHT ROCKED THE HOUSE WITH PACKED DANCE FLOORS, DRINK SPECIALS, HOTTIES AND STRIPPERS. EYE CANDY AND FUN TIMES, CANT WAIT FOR THE PAPI TO COME BACK TO TOWN! PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. TO SEE MORE PICTURES VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

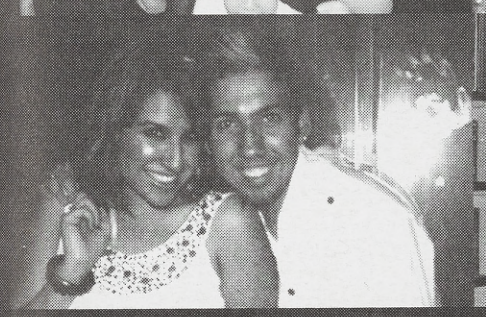


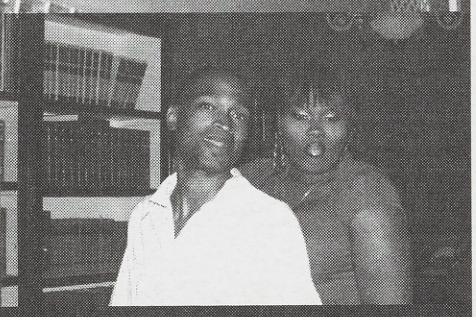


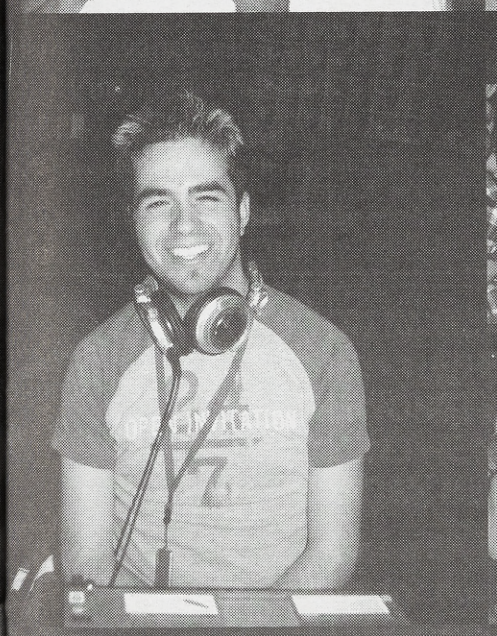

BOJANGLES – BO'S IS AN ONGOING SUCCESS WITH 18+ DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY HYPNOTIZED BY STRIPPERS AND DISCO LIGHTS. CROWDS START AT 10, AND THE FLOOR GETS PACKED BY 11. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. TO SEE MORE PICTURES VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



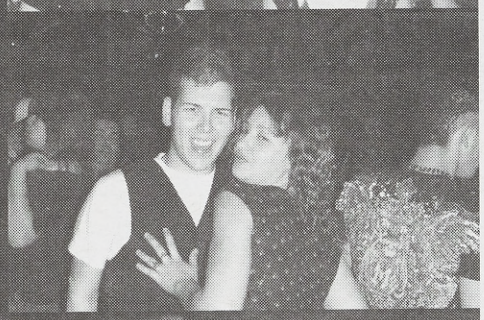


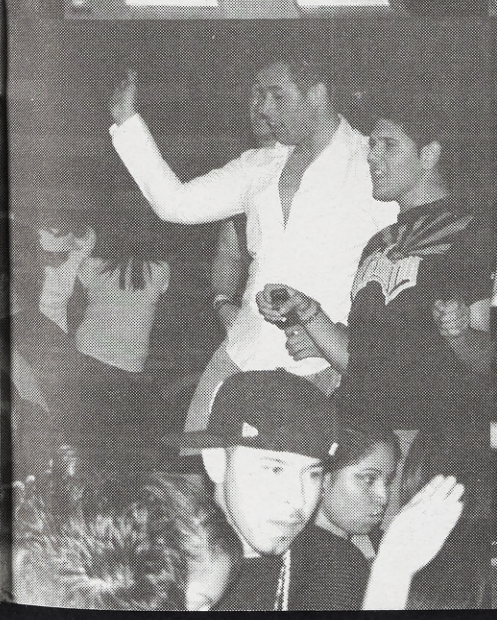


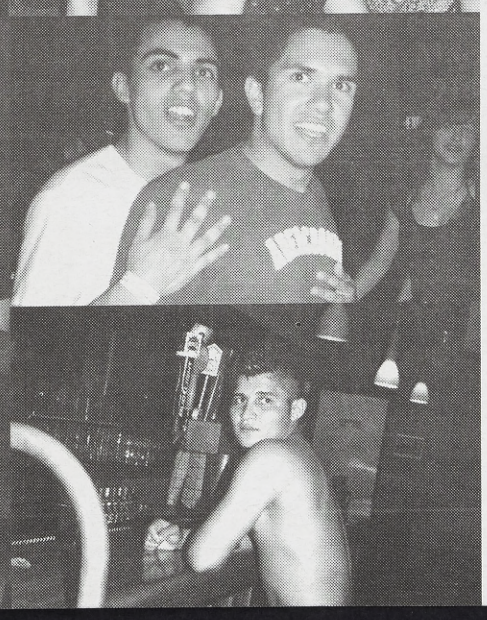






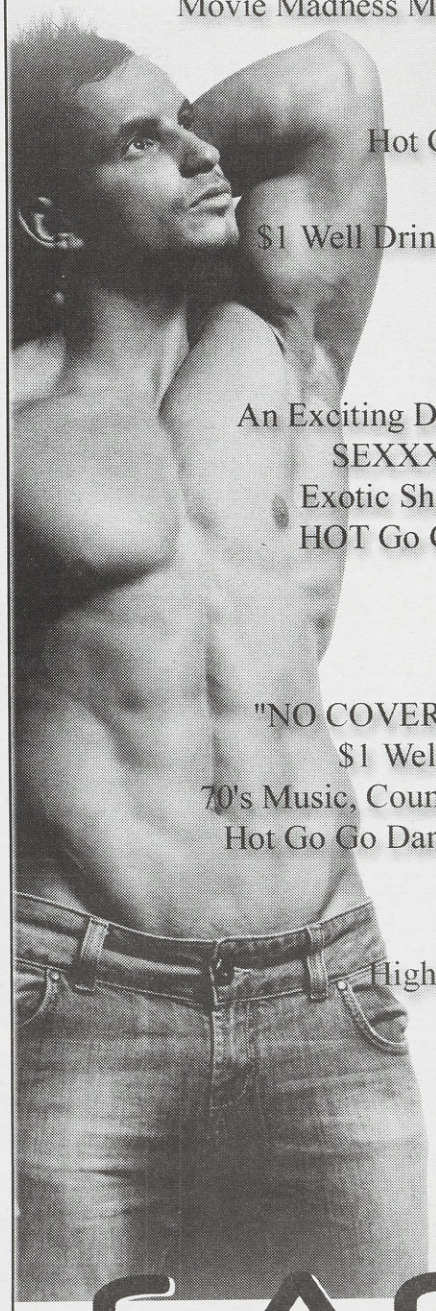






Upcoming Events

Thursday April 16th, Night of the Gentlemen!
Thursday April 23rd, The Bath Party!
Saturday April 25th, Spring Break Beach Party!



Monday

Win Cash - Give-Away @ Midnight
Pool Open ALL NIGHT!
Movie Madness Monday 9-11pm - Queer Idol @11

Tuesday

Latin Night - Live Shows
Hot Go Go Dancers & Drink Specials

Wednesday

$1 Well Drinks & $1 Draft Beers 8-Midnight!
Featuring 80's Music, Country,
Top40 & R&B

Thursday

An Exciting Different Party EVERY Thursday!
SEXXX Thursdays - All Male Strippers,
Exotic Shadow Dancing, Weekly Contests,
HOT Go Go Dancers, And Drink Specials!

Friday

14 Bars & 3 Dance Floors!
Furlough Fridays
"NO COVER" With State I.D. (special events excluded)
$1 Well Drinks & $1 Draft Beers 7-9pm
70's Music, Country, High Energy, Top40 & R&B
Hot Go Go Dancers Entertaining You All Night!

Saturday

14 Bars & 3 Dance Floors!
High Energy, Country, Top40 & R&B
Hot Go Go Dancers All Night!

Sunday

Dancing All Day & All Night
Dragalicious Show @9pm
Pool Party 1pm-Close!

FACES

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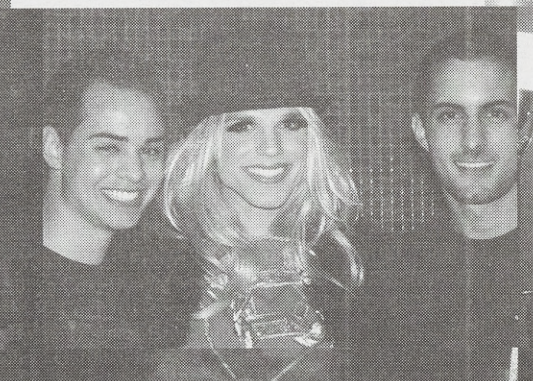


BADLANDS – DERRICK BARRY AS BRITNEY SPEARS DREW AN AWESOME CROWD! DERRICK WAS AMAZING AND GAVE ONE OF HELL OF AN AWESOME PERFORMANCE! TO FOLLOW DERRICK VISIT DERRICKBRITNEY.COM. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. TO SEE MORE PICTURES VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

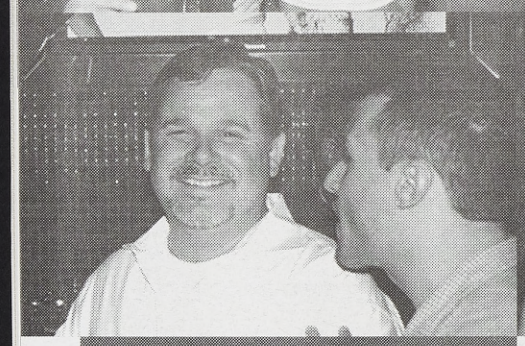








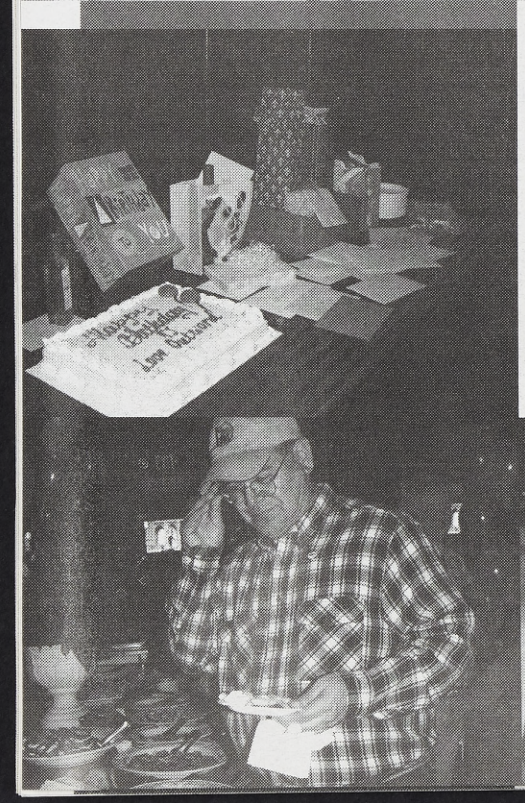




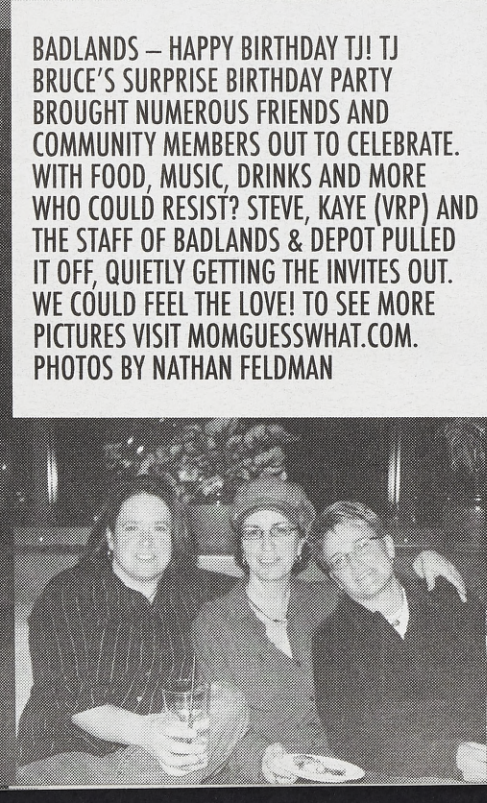








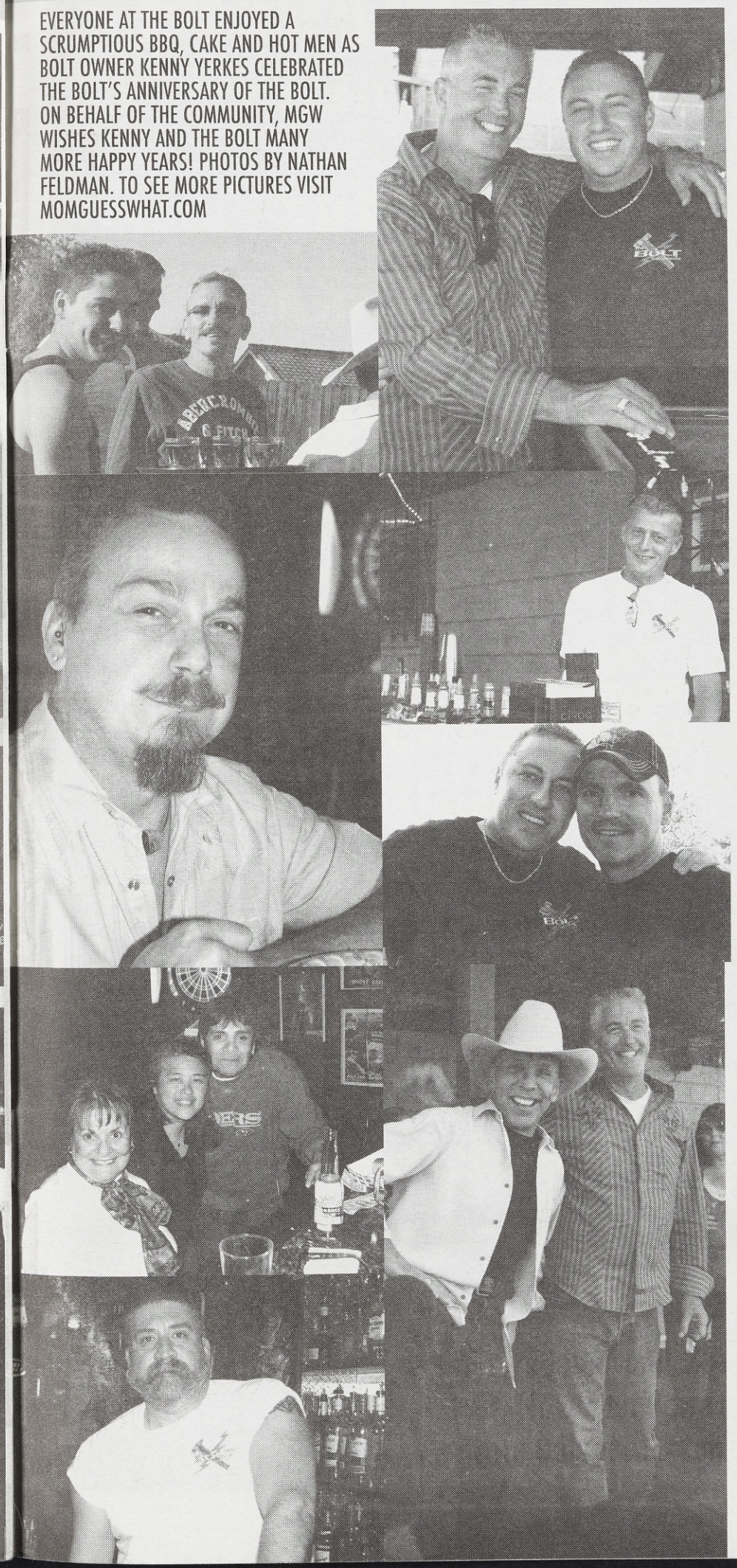
BADLANDS – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TJ! TJ BRUCE'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY BROUGHT NUMEROUS FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OUT TO CELEBRATE. WITH FOOD, MUSIC, DRINKS AND MORE WHO COULD RESIST? STEVE, KAYE (VRP) AND THE STAFF OF BADLANDS & DEPOT PULLED IT OFF, QUIETLY GETTING THE INVITES OUT. WE COULD FEEL THE LOVE! TO SEE MORE PICTURES VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN







EVERYONE AT THE BOLT ENJOYED A SCRUMPTIOUS BBQ, CAKE AND HOT MEN AS BOLT OWNER KENNY YERKES CELEBRATED THE BOLT'S ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOLT. ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, MGW WISHES KENNY AND THE BOLT MANY MORE HAPPY YEARS! PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. TO SEE MORE PICTURES VISIT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



WHERE REAL MEN GO TO PARTY!

The BOLT Sacramento

EVERY WEEK AT THE BOLT

SUNDAYS
Beer Bust 3 p.m.
Bike Night 8 p.m.

MONDAYS
Underwear Night 9 p.m.

TUESDAYS
Shot Night 9 p.m.
Pint Night 9 p.m.
Dart League Night

WEDNESDAYS
Free Pizza 5 p.m.
Free Pool

THURSDAYS
Movie Night 10 p.m.

FRIDAYS
Leather Night 9 p.m.

SATURDAYS
Bear Chest Night 9 p.m.

"SWEAT" VIDEO PREMIER
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

COME OUT TO THE BOLT FOR THE PREMIER OF GREY ROSE PRODUCTIONS' NEW XXX VIDEO, "SWEAT"! MEET SOME OF THE STARS! JELL-O SHOOTERS AND RAFFLE WILL BENEFIT CARES AND THE MR. BOLT LEATHER TRAVEL FUND! THE PARTY STARTS AT 9PM! NO COVER!

LAMBDA PLAYERS BEER/SODA BUST
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009

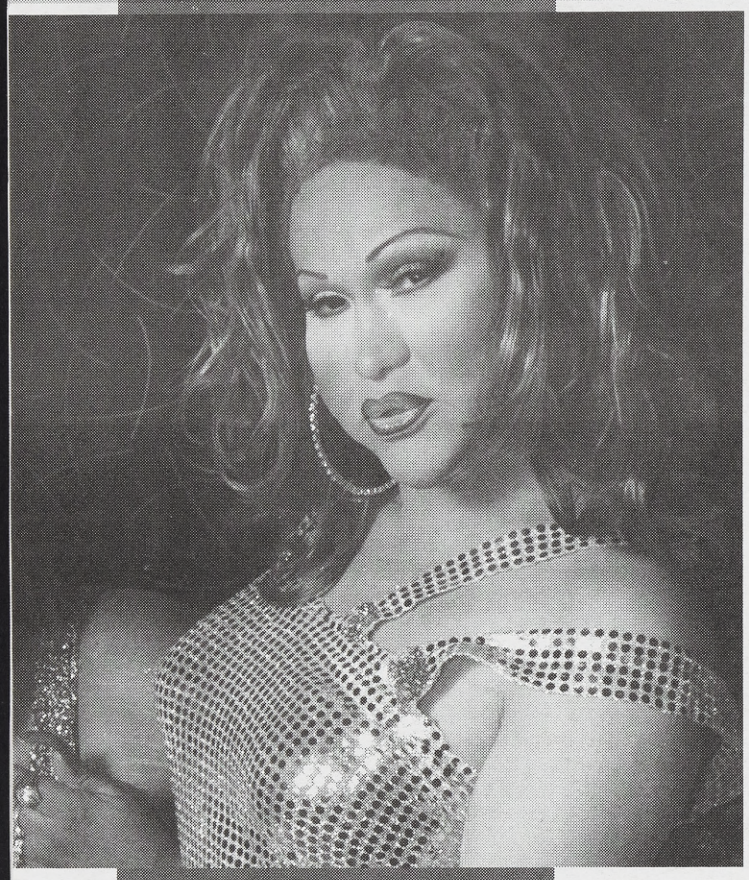
LAMBDA PLAYERS INVITE YOU TO THE BOLT FOR A PREVIEW OF THEIR COMING ATTRACTION, SORDID LIVES! JOIN US FROM 9PM TO MIDNIGHT FOR $8 BEER/SODA BUST, A FUN PERFORMANCE, AND RAFFLE! PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LAMBDA PLAYERS' GENERAL FUND! NO COVER!

GEAR NIGHT
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009

THE SACRAMELEATHER/LATEX PANTS, CHAPS, VESTS, SHIRTS, SKIN GEAR, UNIFORMS, JACKETS, BOOTS, HARNESSES - GET THE IDEA? BOOTBLACKING BY BOY DAVE! NO SPEECHES, NO FUNDRAISING, AND NO COVER!

2560 BOXWOOD ST., SACRAMENTO
916.649.8420 · WWW.SACBOLT.COM





MIZZMONQIUE74@AOL.COM

The Last Word

MYSPACE.COM/
MIZZMONIQUEMOORE

Happy Spring Everyone!

This month so far has been the best month for me since the new year arrived. I first want to thank MGW Newsmagazine for using me for the front cover of the April 1 issue. I woke up that day to check my myspace page and there it was right in front of my face — me on the cover of Sacramento's finest LGBT Newsmagazine! I about pissed my pants and actually screamed with excitement so loud that two of my house children came in asking me if I was OK.

Now you know that I called everyone and had to drive down to the nearest newspaper stand and grab me a few hundred copies! (laughing). Well it's not that often that a Drag Diva Bitch like me gets to be on the cover of a publication. Once again, thank you!

Moving on, in my last column I mentioned that my father had lost his sight. He has since had cataract surgery and can see out of his eye. My mother told me that he can't see 100%, but he *is* able to see and that is a blessing. I am so glad and feel more comfortable knowing that he isn't falling down or bumping into walls anymore. I guess praying truly helps!

I have been going to A Church For All's weekly Sunday service at 1:30 p.m and have been praying for my father's sight — that he would see again and The Lord has answered my prayer. Enough of the church talk from me I will leave that up to Rev. Doretha Williams (page 32) to preach on.

Last month a good friend of mine — Mr. Richard Hallmark — a fabulous clothing designer asked me to walk as the last model for the finale in his runway show.Of course, I said, "hell yes". The fashion show took place at The Park Ultra Lounge downtown and what a fabulous night! I had never walked in a fashion show on a real runway before and when I walked down the runway with my mohawk and my gown — me being the only drag queen — I was one fierce bitch (as you can see from the pic below).What a amazing night which I will never forget.

That same Saturday night was the Mr. & Miss. Gay Sacramento Pageant which I was supposed to host at FACES Nightcub, but I had to cancel to do something I had never done before — be a fashion model. I wanted to congratulate my drag king son Mr. Spade Moore for doing such a fabulous job last year as Mr. Gay Sacramento-at-Large. I also wanted to congratulate all the new winners Mr. Brennon, Miss. Malahe, Ms.Key and Mr. At-Large B. Stone for winning their prestigious titles.

It's my hope that the four of them will get together and raise a lot money for charities and fufill their duties as promised.I want to give a good luck shout out to my dear sister Chelsey Fox who is running for Empress of CGNIE this year. I am so excited for her and I know that she will be a great Empress. She always keeps it real and that is why she has my full support.

I am excited to announce that Monday nights at 9 p.m. at FACES Nightclub I will be hosting "Monique Moore's Movie Madness". We will be playing a new movie every week for all of you. Come out and watch a great flick, eat popcorn, drink and make some new friends.

We'll be showing movies like To Wong Foo ..., Sunset Boulevard, Perscilla Queen of the Desert, Mommie Dearest, Torch Song Trilogy, The Rocky Horror Picture Show and many other fabulous movies. I and others will be dressing up every week after week as one of the stars from each movie which should be a lot of fun.

In my last column I talked about Drag Houses and gay families and how I was a Drag Mother to a lot of gay children. Well, one Saturday I decided to take a few of my children — Star and Gary, who are a part of the House of Moore, to the tattoo shop called "Murder Ink". It's located at 912 12th St., between I and J Sts. And we all got the Moore logo. I have sent the logo to a lot of my children living out of state and other places in California and they are all getting them tattooed on themselves. Here's a pic of my son Gary's tattoo (above right).

As they were getting permanently marked I said. "Now you will never leave mother". (laughing) My friend started laughing and said that I sounded like a line out of a movie. I was afraid to get one at first because I was afraid of the pain, but I didn't feel a thing — and no I didn't take any sedatives to calm me down!

The tattoo artists who did them were so cool, We had them laughing and joking the whole time. They have to be the most gay-friendly men I have ever met in my life. If anyone is interested in getting a great tattoo at a great cost make sure you ask for "Jake" and mention my name.

This month has been an "eat eat eat" month for me and I must have gained about ten pounds. I need to focus on losing weight and eating healthy but it is hard as hell to say no to my friends who want to take me out every day to eat. I really would like to be a size 8 again in women's clothes!

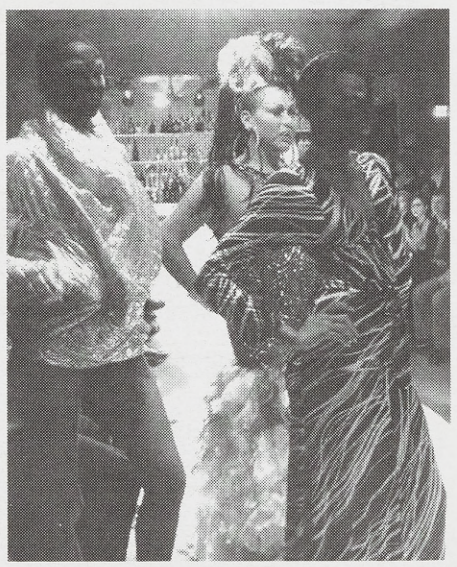
I attended Club Papi at FACES in April and boy did I have a little too much to drink that night! But it was a lot of fun and the club was just the way Terry likes to see it — packed as hell!

There have been other things that in April, such as me getting pulled over twice from the California Highway Patrol two weeks in a row and talking my way out of two tickets while I was in drag ... but maybe I'll write about that nest time.

If you are interested in hearing me talk live, come see me and my fabulous cast of Divas in the "Dragalicious Drag Show" at FACES Nightclub where I MC every Sunday night at 9 p.m.

This is Mizz Monique Moore always getting in "The Last Word".









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& the Divas Cast

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APRIL 25TH

DJ Seth Gold

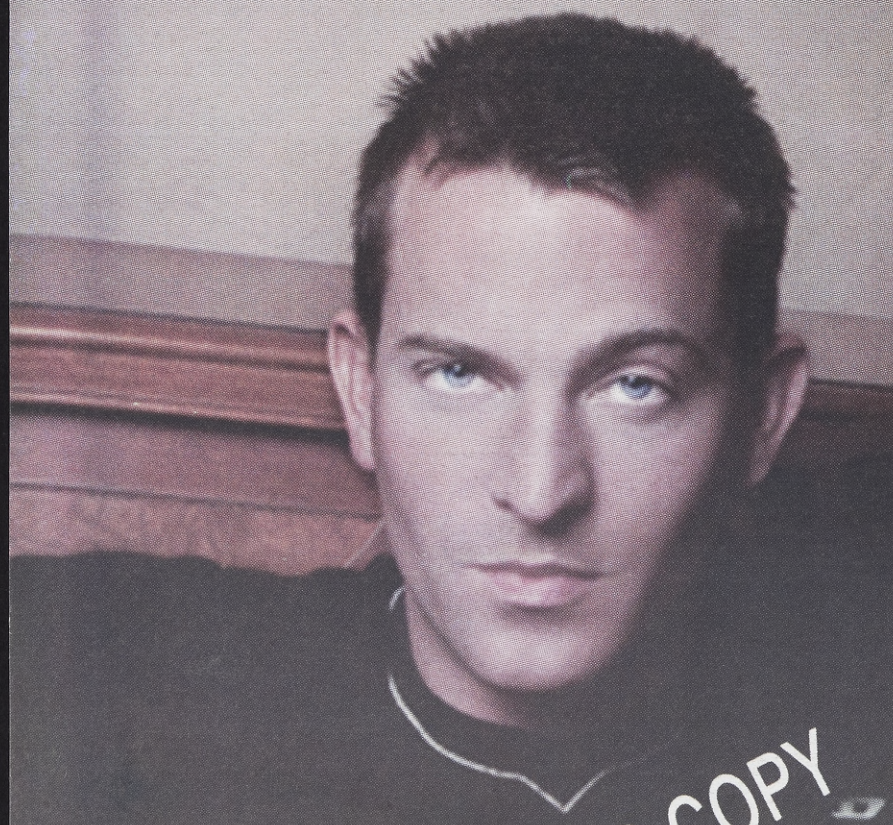


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